



HUMBOLDT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
PAUL V. GALLEGOS • DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Criminal Division • tel (707) 445-7411 • fax (707) 445-7416 • 825 5th Street, Eureka, CA 95501
Victim Witness Assistance • tel (707) 445-7417 • fax (707) 445-7490 • 712 4th Street, Eureka, CA 95501

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Re: Maggie Wortmon Allows Voluntary Manslaughter Plea to Stand

Date: March 21, 2012

Contact: District Attorney Paul Gallegos

Phone: (707) 268-2571, (707) 267-4400

On Monday, March 19, 2012, Maggie Jean Wortmon, 27, of Eureka, agreed to let her previous plea of guilty to voluntary manslaughter stand, effectively admitting that she engaged in conduct that directly caused the death of her infant son, Michael Phillip Acosta III. The baby was pronounced dead at a local hospital on November 21, 2010 and an autopsy revealed that Michael died of “methamphetamine toxicity”. Through her plea, Wortmon admitted to exposing her son to a lethal amount of the drug. After Wortmon confirmed her plea, the Honorable Judge W. Bruce Watson sentenced her to six years in state prison.

“We are pleased with the disposition,” said prosecuting Deputy District attorney Ben McLaughlin. “It is good that these cases, and this harmful conduct, is being taken seriously.”

“Too many people believe that drugs are a victimless crime,” added Humboldt County District Attorney Paul Gallegos. “But using and dealing drug aren’t victimless crimes at all and too often innocent children are the victims.”