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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRANDMOTHER CHARGED IN SEVERE BEATING OF TWO-MONTH-OLD BY HIS FATHER IN BRIDGEPORT



MICHELLE ROHLOFF

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Aug. 11, 2021) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Upper Merion Township Police Chief Thomas Nolan announce the charging of Michelle Rohloff, 63, of West Palm Beach, Fla., with Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Recklessly Endangering Another Person related to the severe beating of her 2-month-old grandson by the baby's father Daniel Rohloff. Daniel Rohloff was previously charged with Attempted Murder.

The investigation by Upper Merion Township Police and Montgomery County Detectives began on July 27, 2021 when they responded to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) for a report of a 2-month-old boy who was suffering from "inflicted" injuries. Upon examination, doctors found that the baby had injuries to multiple organ systems including rib fractures, both new and healing, bilateral subdural hemorrhages, bruising and lacerations to his liver, and bruising on multiple areas of his body.

Through the investigation, detectives learned that the Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth (OCY) became involved with the family at the time of the child's birth when the baby's father, Daniel Rohloff, was exhibiting strange behavior in the hospital. Since then, OCY made multiple attempts to limit Daniel Rohloff's ability to

have unsupervised contact with the baby. In June 2021, the baby's paternal grandmother Michelle Rohloff relocated from Florida and moved into the family's Bridgeport home for the sole purpose of supervising Daniel Rohloff at all times when he was around the baby. This safety plan was approved by OCY and was pursuant to a court order imposed by a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas. Michelle Rohloff was also present at two court hearings, during which concerns for Daniel Rohloff were discussed and the conditions of the safety plan were made clear.

During this investigation, detectives found SD cards containing home video surveillance footage from Monday evening prior to the baby's hospitalization. These SD cards were found in a sock in Michelle Rohloff's suitcase. A review of the footage revealed Daniel Rohloff alone with the baby in a bedroom on multiple occasions on Monday evening. The surveillance video shows Daniel Rohloff, at two different times during the evening, carrying a quiet baby Landon into a bedroom. He then covers the camera with a towel, and the baby begins to scream intensely. After the second assault, Daniel Rohloff exits the room and goes downstairs carrying the baby, who is making a loud screeching, unusual sounding cry. Detectives found that, during this same time period, Michelle Rohloff was in her bedroom, allowing Daniel Rohloff to be alone with the baby in violation of the OCY safety plan and a court order. She remained in her bedroom despite baby Landon's loud and unusual crying.

"Michelle Rohloff affirmatively accepted the responsibility of protecting Landon. She had a legal duty of care to this vulnerable baby, and she violated that duty when she allowed Landon to be unsupervised with Daniel Rohloff." said First Assistant District Attorney Edward F. McCann, Jr. "As a result of her failures, this baby suffered serious bodily injury and required lifesaving medical treatment."

Michelle Rohloff was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge John D. Kessler, who set bail at \$25,000 unsecured, and the defendant was released. A scheduled preliminary hearing was postponed and is in the process of being rescheduled.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant Chief of Trials Brianna Ringwood.

Approved for release:

Edward F. McCann, Jr.
First Assistant District Attorney

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.