

PRESS RELEASE:

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Office of Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson

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Leavenworth woman found guilty of charges related to co-sleeping death

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — A Leavenworth County jury has found a 43-year-old Leavenworth woman guilty in connection with the 2022 co-sleeping death of her 25-day-old daughter.

Following a three-day trial in Leavenworth County District Court, Megan L. Forbes was found guilty as charged of involuntary manslaughter and aggravated endangering a child. The charges were filed after a grand jury indictment. The trial ended on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026.

The case stems from events that began on Oct. 15, 2022. Firefighters were dispatched to Forbes' residence in Leavenworth on the morning of Oct. 16 for a first aid assist involving an infant. Firefighters and paramedics attempted life-saving measures before EMS transported the child to a Leavenworth hospital, where she was pronounced deceased. Leavenworth police officers also responded to the scene.

Evidence presented at trial showed Forbes hosted a party at her home the night of Oct. 15 for a family member. Alcohol was consumed during the party. Evidence presented at trial indicated Forbes consumed multiple alcoholic beverages. As guests were leaving, Forbes expressed a desire to go to a bar. An adult family member took and hid her car key after she attempted to leave her home.

The victim's father was also present at the party, where he had been drinking before falling asleep in a bed inside the home. According to testimony, Forbes later joined him in the same bed with the infant. While breastfeeding her daughter, Forbes fell asleep with both the infant and the child's father in the bed.

The following morning, Oct. 16, Forbes awoke and observed blood on the infant's face. Forbes and the child's father called 911.

An autopsy was performed on Oct. 17, 2022. According to the coroner's report, the infant died from asphyxiation secondary to a co-sleeping/overlay event with an unsafe sleeping environment.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "This is a heartbreaking case involving the preventable death of a newborn child." "Safe sleep practices exist to protect infants who are entirely dependent on adults for their safety. When alcohol or impairment is involved, the risks increase dramatically. We are grateful to the jury for their careful attention to the evidence and their service in delivering justice."

A sentencing hearing is scheduled for March 27, 2026.