

On November 26, 2023, Portsmouth Dispatch received a call from an individual now believed to be Chante SMITH [REDACTED] who is the mother of B.T. The 911 call showed a calm SMITH speaking with dispatch telling them that her child was not breathing and was cold to the touch. The call lasted approximately 4 minutes before medics arrived. Portsmouth Police arrived shortly after the medics arrived and saw them working on B.T. (11/03/2023). Lt. K. Parker arrived on scene and was approached by B.T.'s father Dontae TAYLOR [REDACTED] who said to Lt. Parker that the two had waited 10 minutes before calling for medical assistance, during this time TAYLOR appeared very upset. B.T. was loaded onto an ambulance by Portsmouth Medics and taken to Childrens Hospital of the Kings Daughters (CHKD). Upon arrival at CHKD, the medical staff continued lifesaving measures before they called time of death at approximately 1410 hours on 11/26/2023.

Detective Holley was notified of the situation and responded to CHKD for what was believed at the time to be a SIDS death. A quick interview was done of the family was and after the Medical Examiner's Office and Portsmouth Forensics photo the body, Detective Holley drove SMITH and TAYLOR home to 2332 Victory Blvd. in the City of Portsmouth (location of the incident).

While at the home Detective Holley completed the reenactment of the incident with SMITH. During the interview with SMITH, she stated that she was sitting on her bed with the baby in her arms watching church when the baby stopped breathing. It was also disclosed by SMITH that the baby has not taken any of bottle in over 24 hours but then her story changed to the child drinking ½ ounce of her formula.

On Monday November 27, 2023, at approximately 1030, Detective Holley received a call from the Medical Examiner's Office stating that his presence was required at the autopsy. Detective Holley responded to the M.E.'s office and met with Doctor Gunther who was performing the autopsy on B.T. Dr. Gunther showed Detective Holley the Inside body cavity (ribs) of B.T. and explained that the white dots that she was showing him were healed fractures of bone from where the ribs had been broken. Multiple ribs appeared to have the white dots showing that multiple ribs had been broken during B.T.'s 23-day life span. Detective Holley was also present when Dr. Gunther discovered a bruise on B.T.'s skull and when the skull was cut open, the brain appeared to "mushroom" out of the skull. Dr. Gunther told Detective Holley that the injuries were consistent with ongoing inflicted trauma to the B.T.'s body which is in Dr. Gunther's medical opinion was the cause of B.T.'s death.

On December 2, 2023, Detective Holley spoke with the parents (Chante SMITH and Deontae TAYLOR) of B.T. and they said that they were the only ones that had unsupervised contact with B.T. during her 23 days of life.

I am requesting warrants on Chante SMITH for: Cruelty and Injury to Children (40.1-103), Aggravated Murder (18.2-31 (12)) and Abuse and Neglect of a Child (18.2371.1 (A))  
I am requesting warrants on Dontae TAYLOR for: Cruelty and Injury to Children (40.1-103), Aggravated Murder (18.2-31 (12)) and Abuse and Neglect of a Child (18.2371.1 (A))

**ORDER FOR CONTINUED CUSTODY**  
Commonwealth of Virginia

Jurisdiction: FORTSMOUTH JUVENILE & DOM REL DISTRICT COURT

ACCUSED: SMITH, CHANTER

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)

Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court  
 General District Court  Circuit Court

Hearing Date and Time: 01/25/2024 09:30 AM

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

DATE OF BIRTH

CHARGE(S):

CTRM: 1

CHARGED UNDER:  State  Local Ordinance

Offense Tracking Number	Offense Date	Virginia Crime Code (For Administrative Use Only)	Code Section	Case Number
740JM2300016312	11/26/2023	MUR-0927-F1 Description: AGG MURDER BY >=21Y OF <14Y	18.2-31	JA058352-01-00
740JM2300016313	11/26/2023	FAM-3806-F4 Description: ABUSE CHILD, SERIOUS INJURY	18.2-371.1	JA058352-02-00
740JM2300016314	11/26/2023	FAM-3810-F6 Description: CRUELTY/INJURE CHILD; LABOR	40.1-103	JA058352-03-00
		Description:		
		Description:		
		Description:		

Addendum listing additional charges is attached and incorporated.  
 Public Workforce  Authorized  Not Authorized

BAIL: \$ .....  
 Secured Bond  Unsecured Bond  Recognizance  
 Custody and Supervision of Pretrial Services Agency  
 Third-Party Custody and Supervision  
 No Change in Existing Amount of Bond  Amend Bond to \$ .....  
 Held Without Bail  No change in Existing Bail Conditions

Accused  may  not leave the Commonwealth of Virginia  may  not leave .....  
CITY/COUNTY

Additional Conditions of Bail:  
The Accused must  
 Submit to Drug/Alcohol Screening  Submit to Drug/Alcohol Testing  Comply with a Curfew of .....  
 Avoid All Contact with .....  
 Refrain from Possessing Firearm, Destructive Device, Dangerous Weapon  
 Refrain from Excessive Use of Alcohol  Refrain from Use of Illegal Drugs/Controlled Substances  
not Prescribed by a Health Care Provider  
 Maintain or Seek Employment  Maintain or Commence Education  
 The Accused is assigned to home-electronic incarceration by Judge  
 The Accused is to be monitored by a GPS/other tracking device  
 The Accused is to be released only to the custody of  authorized facility representative OR  the following person  
..... for transportation directly to the following facility: .....  
NAME OF PERSON  
NAME OF FACILITY  
 Other:

TO THE SHERIFF, JAIL OFFICER OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER:

Hold the accused in custody pending the hearing date and convey the accused to the appropriate court so that the accused will be present in court at the hearing date and time, unless otherwise ordered by the appropriate judicial officer.

12/04/2023  
DATE  
PAGE \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_  
CLERK  
JUDGE

**ORDER FOR CONTINUED CUSTODY**  
Commonwealth of Virginia

Jurisdiction: PORTSMOUTH JUVENILE & DOM. REL. DISTRICT COURT

ACCUSED: TAYLOR, DONTAE W.

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)

Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court  
 General District Court  Circuit Court

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

01/25/2024

09:30 AM

DATE OF BIRTH

Hearing Date and Time:

CHARGE(S):

CHARGED UNDER:  State  Local Ordinance

Offense Tracking Number	Offense Date	Virginia Crime Code (For Administrative Use Only)	Code Section	Case Number
740JM2300016309	11/26/2023	FAM-3806-F4 Description: ABUSE CHILD, SERIOUS INJURY	18.2-371.1	JA038024-11-00
740JM2300016310	11/26/2023	FAM-3810-F6 Description: CRUELTY/INJURE CHILD; LABOR	40.1-103	JA038024-12-00
740JM2300016308	11/26/2023	MUR-0927-F1 Description: AGG MURDER BY >=21Y OF <14Y	18.2-31	JA038024-13-00
		Description:		
		Description:		
		Description:		

Addendum listing additional charges is attached and incorporated.  
 Public Workforce  Authorized  Not Authorized

BAIL: \$ .....  
 Secured Bond  Unsecured Bond  Recognizance  
 Custody and Supervision of Pretrial Services Agency  
 Third-Party Custody and Supervision

No Change in Existing Amount of Bond  Amend Bond to \$ .....  
 Held Without Bail  No change in Existing Bail Conditions

Accused  may  may not leave the Commonwealth of Virginia  may  may not leave .....  
 CITY/COUNTY

Additional Conditions of Bail:  
 The Accused must  
 Submit to Drug/Alcohol Screening  Submit to Drug/Alcohol Testing  Comply with a Curfew of .....  
 Avoid All Contact with .....  
 Refrain from Possessing Firearm, Destructive Device, Dangerous Weapon  
 Refrain from Excessive Use of Alcohol  Refrain from Use of Illegal Drugs/Controlled Substances  
 Refrain from Excessive Use of Alcohol  Refrain from Use of Health Care Provider not Prescribed by a Health Care Provider  
 Maintain or Seek Employment  Maintain or Commence Education  
 The Accused is assigned to home-electronic incarceration by Judge  
 The Accused is to be monitored by a GPS/other tracking device  
 The Accused is to be released only to the custody of  authorized facility representative OR  the following person  
 ..... for transportation directly to the following facility: .....  
 NAME OF PERSON ..... NAME OF FACILITY

Other:

TO THE SHERIFF, JAIL OFFICER OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER:

Hold the accused in custody pending the hearing date and convey the accused to the appropriate court so that the accused will be present in court at the hearing date and time, unless otherwise ordered by the appropriate judicial officer

12/04/2023

DATE

J CLERK  
 JUDGE

PORTSMOUTH  
 General District Court  
 Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
 CITY OR COUNTY

Under penalty of perjury, I, the undersigned Complainant swear or affirm that I have reason to believe that the  
 Accused committed a criminal offense, on or about

11/26/2023  
 DATE OFFENSE OCCURRED  
 in the  City  County  Town  
 PORTSMOUTH

I base my belief on the following facts: (Print ALL information clearly.)

Report Number: 2023-013739

Verbal Probable Cause Given

for  
 40.1-103  
 18.2-31  
 18.2-371.1

The statements above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

In making this complaint, I have read and fully understand the following:

- By swearing to these facts, I agree to appear in court and testify if a warrant or summons is issued.
- The charge in this warrant cannot be dismissed except by the court, even at my request.

NAME OF COMPLAINANT (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)  
 Dot R M Noble

(PRINT CLEARLY)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day.

02 DEC 13 01:55 PM

DATE AND TIME

SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT

CLERK  JUDGE

NAME OF PERSON AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF WARRANT  
 DATE AND TIME AUTHORIZATION GIVEN

Complainant is not a law-enforcement officer or  
 animal control officer. Authorization prior to  
 issuance of felony arrest warrant given by  
 Commonwealth's attorney  
 Law-enforcement agency having  
 jurisdiction over alleged offense

COMPLETE DATA BELOW IF KNOWN

SSN				
B	M	MO	DAV	YR
BL	BR	180	3	6
RACE	SEX	BORN	HT.	WGT.
EYES	HAIR			

ACCUSED: Name, Description, Address/Location  
 TAYLOR, Dontae Wesley  
 LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

[ ] General District Court [ ] Criminal [ ] Traffic  
 Portsmouth [x] Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
 CITY OR COUNTY

**TO ANY AUTHORIZED OFFICER:**  
 You are hereby commanded in the name of the Commonwealth of Virginia forthwith to arrest and bring the Accused before this Court to answer the charge that the Accused, within this city or county, on or about **11/26/2023** did unlawfully and feloniously in violation of Section **18.2-371.1** Code of Virginia:

while being a parent, guardian, or a person responsible for the care of B.T., a child under 18 years of age, cause or permit serious injury to the life or health of such child by a willful act, omission, or refusal to provide necessary care.

I, the undersigned, have found probable cause to believe that the Accused committed the offense charged, based on the sworn statements of

**Detective Holley, R. 2171 Portsmouth PD**, Complainant.

**CCRE/Fingerprinting Required**

DATE AND TIME ISSUED  
**12/02/2023 02:10 PM**

[ ] CLERK [ ] JUDGE  
 David Ray Whitfield  
 JUDGE

CASE NO. **JA038024-1-100**

ACCUSED: **Taylor, Dontae Wesley**  
 LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME

ADDRESS/LOCATION

HEARING DATE/TIME **12-4-23**  
**1/25/24 9:30**

COMPLETE DATA BELOW IF KNOWN

B	M	MO.	DAY	YR.	HT.	WGT.	EYES	HAIR
B	M	FT.	IN.					
BRO	BLK							

DL# STATE

[ ] Commercial Driver's License [ ] Commercial Motor Vehicle [ ] Hazardous Materials

**FELONY** CLASS **4**

[ ] EXECUTED by arresting the Accused named above on this day:

**12/2/23 1537** DATE AND TIME OF SERVICE  
**2 M NOLAN**, Arresting Officer  
**2171 PD 119** BADGE NO., AGENCY AND JURISDICTION  
**M. Moore** for SHERIFF  
 Attorney for the Accused: **yanney(A)**

Short Offense Description (not a legal definition):  
**ABUSE/NEGLECT CHILD: CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY**

Offense Tracking Number: **740JM2300016309**

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY  
 Virginia Crime Code: **FAM-3806-F4**

**FELONY**

**F**

ACCUSED: Taylor, Dontae Wesley  
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)

Jurisdiction: Portsmouth

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

- General District Court (Traffic)
- General District Court (Criminal)
- General District Court (Civil)
- Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court
- Circuit Court

SSN: [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED]

SEX: STATUS: CHARGED UNDER:  
 Male  Female  Adult  Juvenile  State  Local Ordinance

Offense Tracking Number	Offense Date	Virginia Crime Code (For Administrative Use Only)	Code Section	Case Number
740JM2300016310	11-26-23	FAM-3810-F6	40.1-103	
740JM2300016309	11-26-23	CRUELLY TREAT/BEAT CHILD WHILE IN ONE'S CUSTODY FAM-3806-F4	18.2-371.1	
740JM2300016308	11-26-23	ABUSE/NEGLECT CHILD: CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY MUR-0927-F1	18.2-31	
		AGGRAVATED MURDER: >=21 OF PERSON <14		

Addendum listing additional charges is attached and incorporated.

BAIL: \$ .....  
 Secured  Unsecured  Recognizance  
 Held without bail  No additional bail required  
 Release by Judicial Officer to custody of responsible person or when accused is no longer intoxicated

Accused  may  may not depart the Commonwealth of Virginia.  Other conditions of bail on page two.

IF NOT released on bail,  
Court appearance location, date and time:  
 GENERAL DISTRICT  J&DR  CIRCUIT  
Portsmouth  
Dec 04, 2023 09:00 AM  
If released on bail,  
Hearing date and time:  
Dec 04, 2023 09:00 AM

Since accused is unable or unwilling to participate in a bail hearing, I order accused to be returned to Judicial Officer for bail determination.  
 Currently serving sentence  
 Charges pending in ..... Court

Place held in custody (if other than facility serving this jurisdiction): .....  
NAME OF FACILITY

TO THE SHERIFF, JAIL OFFICER OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER: You are ordered to take custody of and convey the accused to the Court, unless otherwise released.

12/02/2023 02:13 PM  
DATE AND TIME  
 MAGISTRATE  CLERK  JUDGE David Ray Whitfield

Received: ..... By: .....

Printed: 04/28/2023 10:23:15 AM  
CHECKLIST FOR BAIL DETERMINATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia

Name of the Accused Taylor, Donnac Wesley  
Nature and Circumstances of the Offense Portsmouth JDR Warrantless Arrest for 18.2-31, 18.2-371.1, and 40.1-103

Weight of the Evidence PG given verbally due to nature of testimony

Length of Time in Community whole life

Place of Employment ..... How Long .....

Family Ties uncles, aunts

Involvement in Education .....

Financial Resources .....

Pending Charges none

Was a firearm allegedly used in the offense:  No  Yes

Currently on probation or parole?  No  Yes

Prior criminal record no convictions in VERT criminal history provided by detective that's Dr. ~~mother~~ - P ch. 10  
06 - False Release, (Capias) to Wake Drug Control Act; 11 - FTA (x-2); 15 - False ID to LEA  
15 - FTA (x-2)

The secured bond provision in Virginia Code § 19.2-123 applies  and is waived with the concurrence of the attorney of the Commonwealth or the attorney for the county, city or town.  
Prior charges of failing to appear none - DMV 2011 (x-2), 2015 (x-2)

Is this person likely to obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice or threaten, injure or intimidate or attempt to threaten, injure or intimidate a prospective witness, juror, victim, or family or household member as defined in Virginia Code § 16.1-228?  No  Yes

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 19.2-130.1, terms of bail set in accordance with the order of a court that issued a capias.

Other information Accused was upset and wanted to go to the funeral tomorrow. Given the testimony of the detective, which included the medical examiner's findings, and the nature of the charges and the victim being 23 days old I believe the possibility of fleeing the Commonwealth to be extremely high.

Bail Set Held without Bail

Special instructions or conditions .....

DATE 12/02/2023

DATE

Check if more information is on reverse

David Ray Whitfield

MAGISTRATE  JUDGE

David Ray Whitfield