

Longwood couple arrested for abuse and neglect of two-month-old baby - 07/15/2013

Seminole Co. Fla., (07/15/13)-The Seminole County Sheriff's Office Crimes Against Children (CAC) Unit this weekend arrested Jessica Heath, 24, for child neglect, and Joshua Stuart, 26, for aggravated child abuse. Both reside in Longwood.

The investigation began on the morning of July 11, when deputies responded to the 1900 block of Corporate Square in Longwood in reference to a report of a two-month-old baby who was unresponsive and bleeding from the nose. The infant was immediately transported to South Seminole Hospital by Seminole County Fire Rescue, and later airlifted to Arnold Palmer Hospital in Orlando.

Stuart initially fled the scene before deputies arrived. He was located in Altamonte Springs on Friday evening and brought to the Sheriff's Office for questioning. During the investigation it was learned that Stuart violently shook the infant after it wouldn't stop crying. Stuart was charged with aggravated child abuse and booked into the John E. Polk Correctional Facility on a no-bond status.

Heath was also arrested after investigators learned the infant required daily medication, which she failed to administer. Heath was charged with child neglect and was booked on a \$2,500 bond. She remains incarcerated at this time.

Doctors indicated the infant suffered serious injuries to the brain as a result of the abuse and may not survive. Doctors also noted the baby had other injuries believed to be consistent with possible previous physical abuse.