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**Date:** 03/20/2017**NEWS RELEASE****NR# 17-21**

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**Mother arrested for Child Neglect after infant dies**

Seminole Co. – (March 20, 2017) – On March 19, Seminole County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michelle Spinicchia for Child Neglect. The investigation began on August 10, 2016, when deputies responded to the 100 block of White Cedar Road in Sanford, in reference to an unresponsive 3-week-old infant. Upon arrival, deputies spoke with Spinicchia who indicated that when she and the baby's father woke that morning they found the infant not breathing and cold to the touch. They called 911 and attempted CPR but the baby could not be saved. The Crimes Against Children's Unit was immediately contacted to investigate.

An autopsy performed by the Medical Examiner's Office revealed that the infant was severely malnourished and underweight. Investigators also learned that the infant was born prematurely and required medical treatment for breathing issues, however Spinicchia failed to take him to follow-up doctor appointments. Based on these facts, and statements made by Spinicchia, investigators believed that her failure to provide essential medical care and to properly feed the infant resulted in his death. The case was forwarded to the State Attorney's Office and on March 15, a warrant was issued for her arrest.

On March 19, deputies responded to a report that Spinicchia violated the condition of release on a prior domestic violence arrest involving the infant's father. The conditions of release stated Spinicchia was prohibited from contacting him, but she continued to call and send text messages. Spinicchia was arrested for Violation of Pre-Trial Release Conditions and for the outstanding warrant for Child Neglect and booked into the John E. Polk Correctional Facility.

During the booking process, Spinicchia became agitated and was placed in a holding cell. Once inside, she damaged a fire sprinkler head causing water to gush and begin to fill the cell. Spinicchia was immediately removed from the holding cell and the water supply to the sprinkler system in that cell was shut off. Due to her actions, Spinicchia was additionally charged with Criminal Mischief, Preventing or Obstructing Extinguishment of Fire, and False Fire Alarm.

At the time of her arrest, Spinicchia was out on bond for an incident that took place on March 11, in which she was charged with Battery/Domestic Violence, Grand Theft of a Controlled Substance, Resisting Arrest, and Escape from a Patrol Car. Due to Spinicchia committing additional crimes while released on bond, the bond for these charges was revoked and she remains incarcerated on a no bond status.

*Arrestee: Michelle Spinicchia, (DOB 01/10/1991), Golf Cove Court, Sanford*

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