



CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

295 Police Memorial Drive, Savannah, GA, 31405

(912) 652-6920 FAX: (912) 652-6974

Chief Jeffrey M. Hadley

Assistant Chief Terry Shoop

Assistant Chief Julie Tolbert

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 11, 2026

Chatham County Police Department Arrests Parents in Connection with Death of Infant

Chatham County, GA (May 11, 2026) – The Chatham County Police Department has arrested the parents of an infant in connection with her November 2025 death.

On Thursday, May 6, 2026, Chatham County Police Department Criminal Investigations Division Detectives arrested 36-year-old Heather Toinnette Laborde, the infant's mother, and 41-year-old Paul Michael Rapkin, the infant's father, and charged them each with second degree murder and second degree child cruelty. Both were transported to the Chatham County Detention Center.

On November 25, 2025, at approximately 11:00 a.m., Chatham County Police Department officers responded to a residence in the 400 block of Butler Avenue for a report of a nine-month-old baby who was not breathing. The baby was transported to a local hospital where she was pronounced deceased. Chatham County Police Department detectives launched an investigation that revealed that the baby's death was caused by the toxic effects of fentanyl and methamphetamine. Those findings led to the criminal charges against her parents.

Because this is an active and ongoing investigation that is now in the court system and in the hands of the Chatham County District Attorney's Office, the Chatham County Police Department does not anticipate having further comment on this case.

###

Media Contact:

Betsy Nolen
Public Information Officer
Chatham County Police Department
Cell: (912) 675-2949