

Child dies, mother charged

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. (AP) — A northeast Kansas woman has been charged in the death of her 19-month-old son.

The Leavenworth Times reports that 31-year-old Catherine Smith made her first appearance Wednesday on a second-degree murder charge and requested a court-appointed attorney.

Leavenworth Police Chief Pat Kitchens says police went to Smith's residence on Nov. 29 in response to a report that a small child wasn't breathing. Her son, Maverick Smith, was taken to a hospital, but he later died.

Kitchens says police conducted an extensive investigation that focused on possible neglect. Smith surrendered to authorities Tuesday.

County Attorney Todd Thompson says Smith isn't accused of intentionally killing her son. The boy's death is alleged to have resulted from "extreme indifference to the value of human life." No other details were released.

Information from: Leavenworth (Kan.) Times, <http://www.leavenworthtimes.com>

Associated Press