

CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff Kristin Graziano
3691 Leeds Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29405



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Ladson mother charged with Homicide by Child Abuse

2024-005714, 2024-006040

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 26, 2024

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – The Charleston County Sheriff's Office has charged Sara Shakeri-Taylor, 39, of Ladson with Homicide by Child Abuse. She was previously being held at the Dorchester County Detention Center and was transported to the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center on Friday, August 23, 2024.

These charges stemmed from a call for service that occurred on May 15, 2024. On that day, CCSO deputies responded to a residence in the 4400 block of Hardwood Street in Ladson for reports of an unresponsive child. Shakeri-Taylor was at home with the infant's father, Sandy Sharron Gathers, 41. Deputies began lifesaving measures until firefighters and EMS arrived. The infant was transported to Summerville Medical Center and was pronounced dead that evening.

Evidence collected from the scene included baby bottles, formula, a pacifier, and a dollar bill with a powder substance. These items were sent to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for analysis. All the items were presumptive for the presence of fentanyl.

"As a parent, it shakes me to my core to see people be so careless and negligent with their children. This mother made a terrible decision, and she is where she belongs," said Sheriff Kristin Graziano. "The people of Charleston County should be advised that my deputies work hard to get people like this off the street."

Since the initial call for service in May, Shakeri-Taylor has also been charged with three counts of conspiracy, three counts of animal fighting or baiting, and one count of ill treatment of animals.

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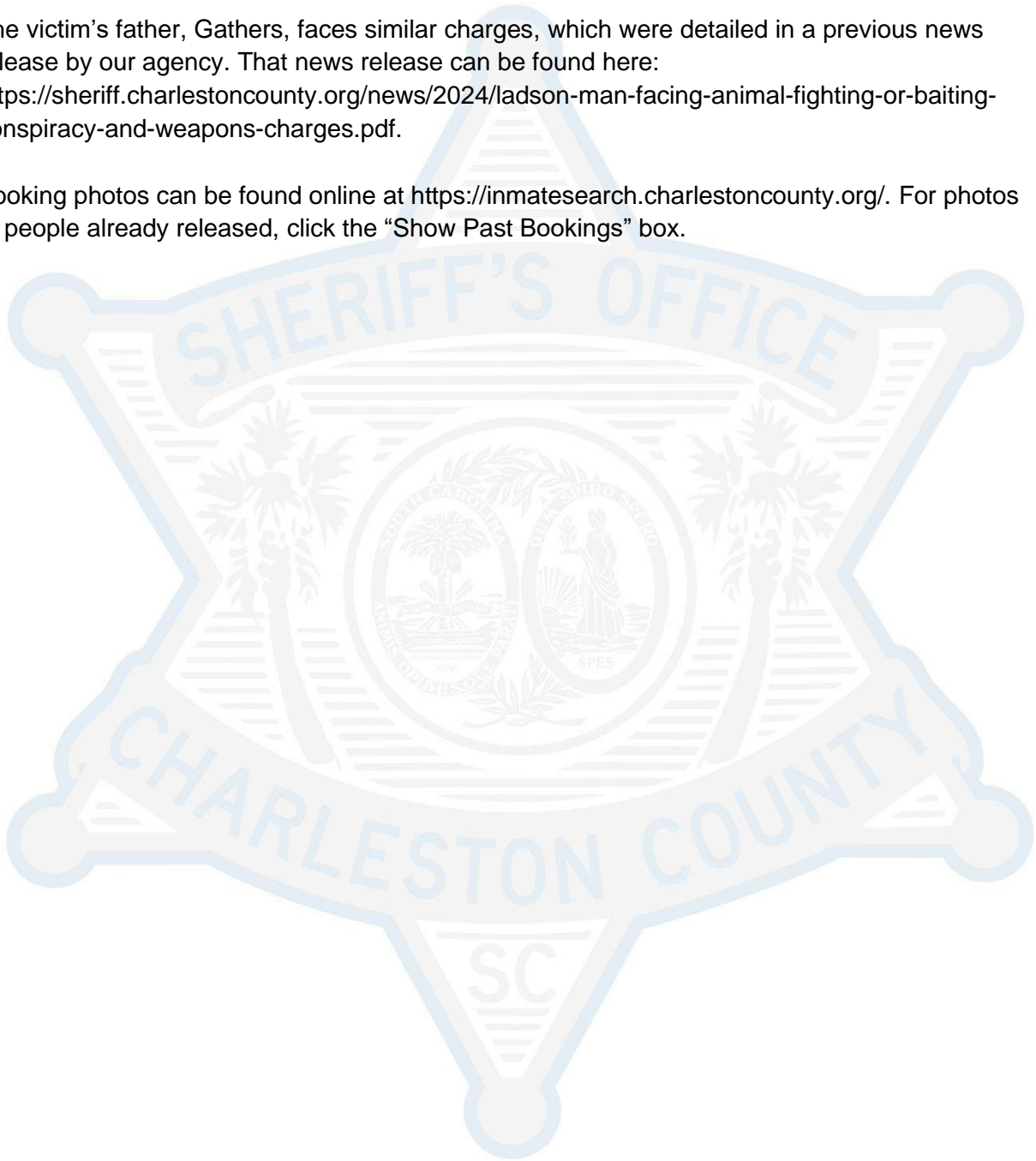

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The victim's father, Gathers, faces similar charges, which were detailed in a previous news release by our agency. That news release can be found here:
<https://sheriff.charlestoncounty.org/news/2024/ladson-man-facing-animal-fighting-or-baiting-conspiracy-and-weapons-charges.pdf>.

Booking photos can be found online at <https://inmatesearch.charlestoncounty.org/>. For photos of people already released, click the "Show Past Bookings" box.



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