



**OFFICE OF THE
STATE'S ATTORNEY**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 22, 2025

MOTHER INDICTED ON MURDER CHARGES FOR THE DEATH OF HER FIVE-WEEK-OLD INFANT

ELKTON – Destiny Faith Chivaler, 24, of Charlestown, MD, was indicted on December 17, 2025, by a Cecil County Grand Jury for the murder of her five-week-old infant. One week earlier on December 10, 2025, Chivaler was arrested and charged by the Maryland State Police with the child's death. Two of the seven charges Chivaler faces are Murder – First Degree and Child Abuse - Resulting in the Death of a Child under the Age of Thirteen Years Old, both carrying a maximum penalty of life in prison.

On December 19, 2025, Chivaler appeared virtually from the Cecil County Detention Center for her initial appearance in the Circuit Court for Cecil County. At the hearing, the State explained to the Court that no bail was appropriate in this case based upon the charges and according to information from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner that this infant victim suffered injuries which were sudden and violent. The Office of the Public Defender represented Chivaler at her initial appearance and argued Chivaler lacks any significant criminal record and ultimately requested the Court consider house arrest. After both sides presented their arguments, the Court granted the State's request to hold Chivaler without bond.

Chivaler remains incarcerated at the Cecil County Detention center pending her trial date, which has not been set as of the time of this release.

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