

SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ARREST/PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult	Arrest Datetime 08/13/25 16:55	Arrest Location ██████████	Agency Report# 25-79019	OBTS# 3704023792	SPN# 279563	Court Case# 2025CF22181
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile						

Defendant's Full Name (Last, First, Mid., Suffix) FORD, RAYMONA P	D.O.B. 04/11/2001	Race B	Sex F	Height 500	Weight 150	Hair BLK	Eye BRO
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Aliases	DL Number	DL State XX	SSN.# ██████████	Place of Birth FL	Patrol Zone
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Local Address	Local Home# ██████████	Local Work#	Occupation/Employer/School
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Permanent Address ██████████ TALLAHASSEE, FL 32305	Permnt. Home#	Scars, Tattoos, Unique Physical Features
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#	Co-Defendant's Full Name	D.O.B.	Sex	Race	Arrested	Offense Level
1						
2						
3						
4						

#	FDLE Statute Ref#	L/D	Domestic Violence?	Charge Literal	Bond Amt	Cnts	Wrrnt	Capias
1	782.04 1A1	2535	FC	HOMICIDE-WILFUL KILL MURDER PREMEDITATED	FAIR	1	[]	[]
2	827.03 2A	7324	FF	CRUELTY TOWARD CHILD AGGRAVATED BATTERY ON CHILD	FAIR	1	[]	[]
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								

If Release is Approved, Defendant Should be Electronically Monitored? NO

If YES, Why?

Affiant Signature	Arresting Officer Name/Id# ROBERTS NICK	Arresting Agency/ORI# TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT FL0370300
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08/13/2025 23:42

JAIL USE ONLY			
<input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse	<input type="checkbox"/> State Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> County Jail	<input type="checkbox"/> Defendant

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Defendant's Name	Race	Sex	D.O.B.	Agency Report#
FORD, RAYMONA P	B	F	04/11/2001	25-79019

The undersigned certifies and swears that he/she has just and reasonable grounds to believe, and does believe that the above named Defendant on Friday May 9TH 2025, at approximately 15:00, at [REDACTED] did the following violation of law:

PROBABLE CAUSE

CASE #: 25-00079019

TO: FIRST APPEARANCE MAGISTRATE

DEFENDANT: Raymona Ford

CHARGES: Murder- 1 st Degree Premeditated -FSS 782.04 1A1
Cruelty towards Child-Aggravated Battery FSS 827.03 2A

SUMMARY OF OFFENSES AND PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT:

PROBABLE CAUSE:

The facts and information obtained by your Affiant with regard to this matter comprise proofs to establish Probable Cause, respectfully submitted as follows:

On 5/9/25 at approximately 3:32pm, TPD officers were dispatched to the report of a toddler who possibly drowned in a bathtub at [REDACTED] in Leon County, Tallahassee, FL. Officers arrived and contacted Raymona Ford, the mother of the toddler and two other children in the residence at the time of this incident. The toddler victim of the alleged drowning was identified as [REDACTED]. The other children were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was transported as an unresponsive patient to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital with no brain function. He remained in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit until 5/13/25 when he was removed from life-support after the determination by doctors that he would not recover from his injuries. I was assigned this case due the suspicious nature of [REDACTED] death.

Initial statements from Raymona Ford to responding patrol officers indicated that Ford had just prepared meals for all three children within the apartment and was the sole parental provider inside of the apartment and the only adult caring for the children at the time of this incident. She said after preparing meals for the children, [REDACTED] ate their meals in their bedroom of the residence while she fed [REDACTED] from a highchair in the living room. Ford said [REDACTED] had gotten his food all over him and needed to be bathed, so she brought him to the only bathroom in the apartment and began to run the bath water. She claimed that the bathtub bottom faucet was not functioning properly and she would (as a routine) run the water through the upper shower faucet. She also made mention of the bathtub drain stopper not working and that the water could not be stopped from draining. She also stated that the water would drain with the water running but would drain slowly. Officers noted that at the time of their arrival, the bathtub contained no water but there was indication that water had been in the tub.

Ford told officers that after placing [REDACTED] in the bathtub with the water running, she placed toys in the tub for him to play with. She then left him alone in the tub to attend to [REDACTED] and clean up the kitchen. She noted that the stove was still on, and a pot was smoking when she entered the kitchen/living room area of the apartment and claimed this kept her from more closely attending to [REDACTED] in the bathtub. There was little to no evidence of an impending stove-top emergency upon Officers arriving and inspection of the apartment by detectives later.

Ford said that when she checked on [REDACTED] within a minute (according to Ford) of leaving him in the bathtub, she observed him floating face-up in the bathtub with "bubbles" coming from his nose. She then took hold of him and called [REDACTED] paternal grandmother (Dianna Tyson) for assistance and did not call 911 until instructed to do so. Ford claimed to have started CPR and noted that [REDACTED] evacuated his bowels on the floor as she performed CPR and he did cough up water. There was a small amount of water on the floor of the hallway just outside of the bathroom where Ford said she attempted CPR; however, it was unclear if this was from his body or water he had coughed up. Medical first responders (Leon County EMS)

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arrived on scene and took [REDACTED] to an awaiting ambulance. During medical intervention while enroute to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, [REDACTED] continued to breathe but only through the assistance of medical ventilation due to sporadic/spontaneous labored breathing. They also noted seizure-like behavior.

On 5/12/25, Raymona Ford agreed to conduct a video recorded walk-through of the incident in her apartment and use a doll to simulate her actions during the incident. She also conducted a demonstration of bathtub faucets and the malfunction issues she expressed having with them.

During the demonstration of the faucets, she was able to show that the bottom faucet did not dispense water and it appeared as though the diverter valve was keeping the water directed to the upper shower faucet. She claimed this was the only way to have water flow into the bathtub. The water ran for approximately 10-15 seconds and was collecting in the area near the drain during the demonstration. The water would drain, but not at the rate originally designed or expected. During the 10-15 seconds of the demonstration with water on, the water did appear to drain at a slightly lower rate than water was flowing into the tub, causing a very slow filling of the tub. However, when the water was turned off, the bathtub did drain completely and appeared to do so with a minute during the demonstration. There were no visible obstructions to the drain. It should be noted that responding officers saw no standing water in the tub upon their arrival. The time of the call was at 3:29pm and the time officers arrived was 3:37pm.

During the walk through of the incident outside of the demonstration of the bathtub faucets, Ford claimed to have found [REDACTED] on his back with his feet towards the bathtub faucet. She said his face was out of the water and the water level was approximately 2 inches (she pointed to the water level during the demonstration. She stated that [REDACTED] appeared to be floating or halfway floating in the tub and gave the example of someone floating in a pool. This would indicate air being in [REDACTED]'s lungs when she stated she discovered him and not consistent with drowning. She also stated that the water level when she left [REDACTED] in the tub was approximately ankle deep for Moore. At first Ford stated that she left for 1-2 minutes, but later stated it could have been 3-5 minutes.

Ford stated that she was the only adult present during the time of this incident. She also stated that [REDACTED] was in his bedroom during the entirety of the incident until she yelled to him to get her phone.

Based on Ford's statements and demonstration, her account of the incident is inconsistent with [REDACTED] having drowned as she claimed.

[REDACTED] was held for autopsy by the District 2 Medical Examiner's Office. Official findings showed that [REDACTED] suffered from acute trauma to the head and neck, which caused probable seizures and resulted in complications from water submerging. [REDACTED] death was ruled a Homicide.

During the follow-up investigation, it was learned that [REDACTED] was the victim of a previous drowning incident while under the care of Ford. This occurred in 2023 when [REDACTED] was only 11 months old (TPD Incident # PD2023120200208314). The incident was not reported as suspicious at the time. [REDACTED] paternal grandmother, Dianna Tyson, suggested this incident and the incident on 5/9/25 were the result of Ford being upset with the child's father. It is also the reason Ford did not give [REDACTED] the last name of his biological father, Dion Tyson.

Based on the findings of the District 2 Medical Examiner's Office and the inconsistencies with Ford's account of the incident, Ford likely struck [REDACTED], causing him to seize and drown in the bathtub of Ford's apartment. Ford also took measures to conceal her involvement in the abuse of [REDACTED] which ultimately led to his death.

On 8/13/25, Ford agreed to be interviewed at TPD in reference to this case. Ultimately, Ford admitted to striking [REDACTED] in the head at least three times in anger on 5/9/25 before placing him in the tub. She stated she struck him due to his behavior and making a mess of himself and the residence. Ford agreed that she omitted this information initially.

Ford also stated in that she had made a request of Dion Tyson to care for [REDACTED] so that Ford could celebrate her birthday. Ford said Tyson refused to care for [REDACTED]. This was consistent with Dianna Tyson's concerns that injury appeared to befall [REDACTED] when Dion Tyson refused requests by Ford for care of his child.

Based on the findings of this investigation, [REDACTED] dies as a result of a seizure and drowning related to trauma sustained

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from head injuries after being struck by his mother, Raymona Ford contrary to FSS 782.04 (2), Murder 2nd Degree.

The undersigned affiant is a detective with the Tallahassee Police Department currently assigned to the Violent Crimes Unit. Affiant has been a sworn officer with the Tallahassee Police Department for 18 years. Affiant has served as a Detective for the past 12 years.

This Probable cause was drafted by Det Jerry Megna #391 and only submitted by Det. N Roberts due to technical issues. The above probable cause was approved by ASA A Mood on 8/13/25

Affiant Signature	Arresting Officer Name/Id# ROBERTS NICK	Arresting Agency TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT FL0370300
Sworn to and subscribed before me this Wednesday of August 13TH 2025		Certifying Officer
Detention facility Leon County Jail 535 Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32304		Arrest Date/Time 08/13/25 16:55
Booking Officer	Bond Amount FAL	Aggravating Factors

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VICTIM INFORMATION**

#	FDLE Statute	Victim's Name	Victim's Address	Home#	Work#
1	782.04 1A1			.	.
2	827.03 2A			.	.
				.	.

Affiant Signature	Arresting Officer Name/Id# ROBERTS NICK	Arresting Agency TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT FL0370300 Agency Report#: 25-79019
Detention facility Leon County Jail 535 Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32304		Arrest Date/Time 08/13/25 16:55
Booking Officer	Bond Amount FAL	Aggravating Factors

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

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Officer Name	Signed As	Signed Date & Time
ROBERTS, NICK	ARRESTING OFFICER	08/13/2025 18:50
OLIVEIRA, WANESSA	TRANSPORTING OFFICER	08/13/2025 21:44
BAILEY, BRIEN	RECEIVING OFFICER	08/13/2025 23:41
BAILEY, BRIEN	BOOKING OFFICER	08/13/2025 23:41