



Columbus Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2025

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Mother Arrested After Newborn Found in Dumpster

On September 2, 2025, around 6:30 p.m., Columbus Police Officers responded to the 3100 block of Victory Drive (Budgetel) after a newborn baby was discovered in a dumpster. The infant was taken to Piedmont Columbus Regional for treatment and is in stable condition.

The Special Victims Unit was called to the scene to lead the investigation.

Following an extensive investigation, detectives arrested 22-year-old Zinnia Hernandez, the baby's mother, who admitted to giving birth and placing the infant in the dumpster. Hernandez has been charged with Criminal Attempt Murder, Abandonment of a Child, Cruelty to Children in the First Degree, and Reckless Conduct. She is scheduled to appear in Recorder's Court for a preliminary hearing on Friday, September 5, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information is urged to contact Sgt. B. Waldie at 706-225-4292 or bwaldie@columbusga.org.

This case was led by Sgt. B. Waldie with assistance from the entire Special Victims Unit. Their swift work and dedication brought this difficult case to resolution.

The Columbus Police Department reminds the public of Georgia's Safe Haven Law, which allows a mother to leave her baby, up to 30 days old, at a hospital, fire station, or police station without facing criminal charges, as long as the infant is left with staff. This law exists to ensure the safety and well-being of newborns.

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