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Cops: Mom drowned girl, 4

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Ranting about the devil, a mother previously judged unfit to care for her children confessed to drowning her 4-year-old daughter yesterday to rid her of demons, police said.

The child wasn't supposed to be anywhere near her delusional mother, Sabrina Wright, or in Wright's filthy apartment in a rundown Washington Heights walk-up.

Signifagance Oliver and her twin, Ellagance, were supposed to be safely in the care of an aunt in Virginia. They were sent there by a court order in February 1999.

Somehow, Wright, 29, reappeared in their lives and brought them to a messy flat on W. 160th St., where neighbors said she screamed at them and smoked marijuana in the hallway.

Wright spun out of control early yesterday, police said. In a twisted frenzy, she held Signifagance underwater in the bathtub, believing the child was possessed, police said. Then Wright dialed 911 around 5 a.m.

"She claimed the kid had her dead mother's demon inside of her," said an investigator. "The little girl looked like an angel. She wasn't even supposed to be with this mother. It's just disgusting."

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INVESTIGATOR

Aunt had custody

Charged with murder, Wright, who was arrested for assault in 1996, was sent to Elmhurst Hospital Center for psychiatric evaluation.

On Feb. 19, 1999, a Queens Family Court judge granted custody of Signifagance and Ellagance to a paternal aunt in Virginia. New York's Administration for Children's Services supported the move and subsequently closed their case on the twins in December 1999, believing they were fine.

"There's currently a joint investigation by the ACS and NYPD to determine how these young girls came to be with their mother again," said Jennifer Falk, an ACS spokeswoman.

Other kids taken away in 1992

The twins, born April 21, 1997, had only lived with Wright legally for three months. A fight between Wright and the twins' father prompted ACS to take the twins in July 1997. The agency also believed Wright was smoking marijuana.

Wright has two older children, ages 10 and 11, who also were removed from her custody and placed in foster care. They entered foster care as babies in 1992, when ACS substantiated charges of physical abuse and drug use against Wright.

A trial reunion of the older kids with Wright on July 1, 1997, lasted only two days before it was shattered by domestic violence. All four children were sent to foster care.

Neighbors on W. 160th St. said the girls looked clean and well-dressed, but seemed frightened of their volatile mother.

"I would hear her with the babies, screaming at them, telling them to quiet down," said neighbor Ramona Garcia, 40, "She would yell, and they would shake whenever I would see them in the hall."



PRECIOUS Sabrina Wright (l.) with unidentified man and her twin daughters, Signifagance and Ellagance. Wright allegedly drowned Signifagance early Monday.

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