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B'klyn mom held in baby's drowning

By TODD VENEZIA

A 21-year-old Brooklyn mother whose baby drowned in a tub of Epsom salt was ordered held on $50,000 bail yesterday after she was indicted for manslaughter in the child's death.

Tarsha Flynn, a hulking figure who stood handcuffed in jeans and a white headband in Brooklyn Supreme Court yesterday, said nothing as she was held over until a hearing next January.

Flynn's daughter, Cheyanna, was 5 months old when she drowned last July in a bucket filled with water, rubbing alcohol and magnesium sulfate that the youngster's mother had been using to soak her sore feet.

Flynn told cops she fell asleep with the baby in her arms and found that Cheyanna had slipped into the water.

But an autopsy found that the infant had two skull fractures and bruises on her face. The death was ruled a homicide after police said Flynn held the baby's head under water and drowned her.

At her hearing yesterday, Flynn nodded to her mother and uncle, who attended the hearing to offer her support. They refused to discuss the case other than to assert that that the allegations against Flynn were "lies."

Flynn had no criminal record, but sources said this is not the first time a child close to her has died while in her care.

Her newborn brother died of what was determined to be Sudden Infant Death Syndrome five years ago while the baby slept in a bed with Flynn, then 15.

No charges were filed and the case is not being investigated.

Flynn is now charged with criminally negligent homicide and second-degree manslaughter.

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