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Abuse case mom lost kids in '96

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A city transit worker charged with beating her 7-week-old baby boy was previously judged unfit to care for three of her older kids, the city Administration for Children's Services said yesterday.

Monique Ingrim, 35, of the Bronx, lost custody of her three oldest children amid reports of abuse and neglect in 1996. But Ingrim later had three more kids, and as they grew older, she allowed them to wander the halls in their Melrose apartment building on E. 150th St., asking for food, neighbors said yesterday.

Ingrim was arrested Saturday after doctors determined that her newborn son's skull was injured from blunt trauma and violent shaking, police said.

The baby was in critical condition yesterday at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.

Two of the child's siblings, a 2-year-old boy and a 3-year-old girl, were placed in foster care, said Nancy Poderycki, a spokeswoman for ACS.

Ingrim pleaded not guilty yesterday to assault and child endangerment charges in Bronx Criminal Court.

Her bail was set at $15,000, according to defense attorney Allan Morofsky, who said his client is a Metropolitan Transportation Authority station attendant.

Poderycki said an ACS caseworker visited Ingrim's home last year after receiving additional allegations of abuse, but found no credible evidence.

Details of the 1996 incident were not available. It was unclear yesterday if the three children removed from Ingrim's care in 1996 were still required to be in foster homes. But a girl, identified by neighbors as Ingrim's 16-year-old daughter, was in the family's apartment yesterday.

"If she abused me, would I be sticking by my mother?" asked the girl, who declined to give her name.

Several neighbors, including Marie Melendez, 53, said Ingrim's toddler daughter used to go door-to-door asking for food. Another neighbor said the newborn had a cardboard bassinet.

But neighbor Michelle Sands, 35, called Ingrim a good mom.

With Derek Rose

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