



# NEWS RELEASE

**Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes**  
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## PASSAIC WOMAN CHARGED WITH ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD

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PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

August 5, 2025

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Passaic Police Chief Luis A. Guzman announce the arrest of Nakija Martin, 48 years old, of Passaic, New Jersey. Ms. Martin is charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child, second degree.

On July 15, 2025, at approximately 8:30 a.m., members of the Passaic Police Department responded to a residence in the area of Aspen Place and State Street in Passaic, New Jersey on a report of an unresponsive child. Upon arrival, officers located Nakija Martin and her deceased 6-year-old son. During the investigation, it was discovered that Martin had unsuccessfully attempted to commit suicide and it is believed that she had intended to kill her autistic son. The cause and manner of the child's death are pending the results of the autopsy.

Based on the investigation conducted by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Special Victims Unit, on July 29, 2025, Nakija Martin was charged with second degree endangering the welfare of a child. The investigation remains active and ongoing.

The sentencing exposure on second degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child is 5 to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison.

On August 5, 2025, Nakija Martin appeared before the Honorable Sohail Mohammed, J.S.C. and she consented to pretrial detention.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite the accusation, defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, in a court of law.

Any inquiries may be directed to Passaic County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Jennifer Fetterman at [jfetterman@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:jfetterman@passaiccountynj.org) or 973-881-4811.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office asks anyone with additional information about this incident to contact us on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO, email [tips@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:tips@passaiccountynj.org), or submit an anonymous tip via our website at <https://pcponj.opsnetwork.org/tips>.



**(Photo: Nakija Martin)**