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Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

# THE DENVER POST

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## Caseworker faces charges

### Prosecution of Denver child protection employee accused of falsifying records is rare

By Jennifer Brown *The Denver Post*

A former Denver child protection worker falsified records to make it look like she had checked on a newborn baby later beaten to death even though she did nothing to protect the infant, the district attorney's office said

Wednesday.

The caseworker, who quit her job the same day the baby died, is accused of entering false reports in the state child welfare computer system.

Rotchana Madera, 27, allegedly lied about visiting the baby at the hospital shortly after she was born and tested

positive for marijuana, and about visiting the family home where infant Natalie Skinner-Hurst was severely beaten when she was 2 months old. The baby girl died July 31, four days after she was beaten.

The infant's mother, 21-year-old Kelsey Newell-Skinner, faces charges of child abuse and murder.

The former caseworker was charged with forgery, tampering with physical evidence and official misconduct by

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey.

The rare prosecution of a child protection caseworker has raised more questions about workload and systemic problems within the child welfare system. Madera was juggling 25 cases — about twice as many as co-workers — when she was assigned to look into a child abuse complaint involving the baby's family, which included four oth-

CHARGES » 11A



**Rotchana Madera** is charged with forgery, tampering and misconduct.

**Failed to Death:** The Denver Post's investigative series on Colorado children who died because of abuse and neglect. »denverpost.com/failedtodeath

SPORTS

"I would never do

## HIGH AND BRIGHT

## Disaster

Attachment B