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(S.D.)-Woman Given 10 Years In Death Of Five-Month-Old Baby

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 01/16/2013 10:32 AM

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - A South Dakota woman who pleaded guilty to a felony charge of child abuse and neglect in the death of her five-month-old baby has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Federal prosecutors dismissed a murder charge under the plea agreement with 31-year-old Kehuanna Poitra, of Wanblee. Poitra pleaded guilty in October.

Authorities say Poitra failed to properly care for her infant son and seek necessary medical attention, leading to his death in the summer of 2011.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says the infant was sent home from the hospital, and Poitra was given strict instructions for his care including monitoring, medication and a specialized machine and formula.

Johnson says she failed to provide the care, which resulted in extreme malnourishment, dehydration and ultimately pneumonia.