

Jackie Lacey
District Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

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Babysitter Charged with Child's Murder

A 53-year-old woman who was babysitting a 4-year-old girl while the child's mother was away was charged today with murder and child abuse, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Vanessa Denise Hawkins Scott (dob 5/19/60) pleaded not guilty to one felony count each of murder, assault on a child causing death and child abuse. She is being held on \$1.1 million bail.

Hawkins Scott was arrested March 21 by Los Angeles Police Department officers after the Westlake resident took the unresponsive child to a hospital. The child was pronounced dead.

Deputy District Attorney Carolina Lugo with the Family Violence Division is assigned to the case.

Hawkins Scott returns to court on April 7 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Department 32, for her preliminary hearing. If convicted, she faces up to life in prison.

LAPD is investigating the case.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.