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NEWS RELEASE UPDATE

NEWBORN INFANT SERIOUSLY INJURED ON AUGUST 12th IN APPLE VALLEY HAS DIED

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that his office has just received notification that Anthony Herkal, who was 13-days-old at the time serious injuries were inflicted upon him on August 12, 2018, has died. Michael Anthony Herkal, age 32 of Apple Valley, who is the father of this infant, is currently charged* with Assault in the First Degree (Great Bodily Harm) and Malicious Punishment of a Child (Great Bodily Harm).

Backstrom said that once his office has received the autopsy results from the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office additional charges related to this infant's death will be filed by his office.

See previous news release distributed earlier this afternoon for details pertaining to this case.

Backstrom commented: *"It is heartbreaking that the serious injuries suffered by this helpless infant have now led to his death. On behalf of everyone involved in the investigation and prosecution of this case, I want to express our deepest sympathy to Anthony Herkal's family."*

Additional facts pertaining to this case can be found in the criminal complaint, which is located online at: <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/LawJustice/CriminalComplaint/Pages/default.aspx>. The previous news release can be viewed at: <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/LawJustice/AttorneyNewsReleases/Pages/default.aspx>. While in custody, a mug shot can be viewed at: <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/LawJustice/Jail/Pages/default.aspx>.

Backstrom thanked the Apple Valley Police Department and the Dakota County Electronic Crimes Unit for their thorough investigation of this case.

Herkal made his first appearance in court today and bail in the amount of \$1,000,000 without conditions (\$750,000 with conditions) was set by Dakota County District Court Judge Cynthia McCollum. Herkal's next court appearance is set for August 23, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Hastings. If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.

**Criminal charges are not evidence of guilt. A defendant/suspect is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*