

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

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Mother Charged with Stabbing Baby Daughter

A University Park mother was charged today for allegedly stabbing her 6-month-old daughter in the chest with scissors, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Maria Mendez (dob 12/15/77) faces two counts each of attempted murder and child abuse and one count of assault with a deadly weapon, scissors.

Deputy District Attorney Miji Vellakkattel of the Family Violence Division said case BA455511 includes an allegation that Mendez inflicted great bodily injury on a victim under the age of five and allegations of using scissors as a deadly and dangerous weapon.

Arraignment is scheduled today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Mendez is accused of stabbing her baby girl once at their home on March 14, and then threatening to stab her husband when he pulled the victim away and ran outside, the prosecutor said. The young victim survived the attack.

One day prior, the defendant allegedly burned the same baby, the prosecutor added.

Bail is recommended at \$2 million. If convicted as charged, Mendez faces a possible maximum sentence of life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Juvenile Division.

[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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.