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**ELMHURST MOTHER SENTENCED TO 19 YEARS IN PRISON  
FOR MANSLAUGHTER IN DEATH OF EIGHT-WEEK-OLD SON**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an Elmhurst mother who pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the death of her eight-week-old son has been sentenced to 19 years in prison. The child, Pablo Fernandez, was brought to the hospital with severe brain injuries and skeletal fractures – including broken ribs and a broken leg. Some of the injuries appeared weeks old. He was later declared brain dead and removed from life support at Elmhurst General Hospital in April 2008.

District Attorney Brown said, “Having taken the life of her own child, the defendant will now spend much of her young life in prison. The physical injuries that this innocent and helpless child suffered in just the first few weeks of his life is beyond comprehension. He, like all children, deserved the opportunity to have a full and rewarding life but, unfortunately, his mother thought otherwise. She will now have to live with what she did for the rest of her life.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Kiana Paez, 24, of 57-17 Xenia Street in Elmhurst. Paez, who has been held without bail since her arrest in April 2008, pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter earlier this month before Queens Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Cooperman who imposed today’s determinate sentence of 19 years in prison.

The District Attorney said that, in pleading guilty, Paez admitted that she was home on April 3, 2008, with her infant son, Pablo, and that when he began to cry she picked him up and hit him on the left side of head with an open hand. She then strapped the baby into a car seat and left him alone. The baby subsequently had troubled breathing. When Paez tried to pick up the car seat from her bed, the car seat fell face down with the baby in it. The baby began to cry and then became silent. That night, Paez brought her son to Elmhurst General Hospital. At the time the child was unconscious and having difficulty breathing. When doctors examined the baby, they found that he had a broken leg, multiple broken ribs, a fractured skull and bleeding on the brain. The child was placed on life-support and had minimal brain activity. On April 24, 2008, the child was removed from life support after being declared brain dead.

Assistant District Attorney Mina Q. Malik, of the District Attorney’s Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Chiefs and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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**Note to Editors: E-version of press release posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**