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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, November 7, 2014

**Brooklyn Man Arraigned On Murder Indictment for Beating Death Of  
Three-Year-Old Stepdaughter, Faces Up To Life in Prison**

*Defendant Also Indicted For Assaulting Her Five-Year-Old Brother*

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson today announced that a Bushwick man has been arraigned on a seven-count indictment charging him with second-degree murder and other charges in connection with the beating death of his three-year-old stepdaughter, Jeida Torres, and the assault of his five-year-old stepson, Andrew Torres.

District Attorney Thompson said, "This defendant was a father figure to these two helpless children and instead of protecting and caring for them he allegedly used his fists to beat to death an innocent little girl. Her five-year-old brother was also attacked. Now the defendant will be held accountable for these cowardly acts."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Kelsey Smith, 20, of 38 Cooper Street, in Bushwick, Brooklyn. The defendant was arraigned today before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Neil Firetog on an indictment in which he is charged with two counts of second-degree murder, one count of first-degree manslaughter, one count of second-degree assault, one count of third-degree assault, and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child. He was ordered held without bail and to return to court on February 6, 2015. He faces up to life in prison if convicted.

The District Attorney said that, according to the investigation, on October 18, 2014, at approximately 3:50 p.m., at 38 Cooper Street, which is a homeless shelter in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, the defendant called his wife, Kimberly Torres, who is the mother of Jeida and Andrew, and allegedly told her that he '[messed] up' and hit Jeida and that Jeida was not breathing. Kimberly Torres then called the police, who went to the shelter and found Jeida Torres unresponsive.

The District Attorney said that, according to the investigation, Jeida Torres was taken to Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and was pronounced dead. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined that the cause of death was blunt force trauma. Andrew Torres, who was allegedly punched by Smith, was treated and released.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Bernarda A. Villalona, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Blue Trial Zone and Roger McCready, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Crimes Against Children Bureau, under the supervision of Miss Gregory, Chief of CAC.

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**An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.**