

# The Virgin Islands Consortium

## Mother, Shouting Profanities At 3-Year-Old Son, Abandons Boy In Locked House

VIC News / **Published On January 19, 2016 11:38 AM /**

Ernice Gilbert **January 19, 2016**



ST. THOMAS -- A mother abandoned her 3-year-old son on Monday in an apartment, leaving the frightened boy locked in the home screaming uncontrollably, VIPD Media Specialist Sakeeda Freeman announced via press release late Monday.

According to Ms. Freeman, on Monday at 6:00 a.m, officers were dispatched by the 911 emergency call Center to a residence on Prindsens Gade (Goat Street), located in Hospital Ground to investigate a report of child neglect.

According to the report, responding officers arrived at the address and met with the complainant, who stated that she heard her neighbor screaming and shouting profanities

at her minor child sometime around 4:00 a.m., and eventually left the premises at 5:15 a.m. -- leaving the child locked in the home alone.

The child, a 3-year-old boy, was heard crying uncontrollably as officers attempted to enter the property, only to find the entry gate locked. The landlord of the property was summoned to provide entry into the residence.

Officers stationed themselves at the residence awaiting the arrival of the child's mother, who returned to the home at roughly 7:26 a.m. The mother, Shermer Joseph, 32, of Prindsens Gade was arrested and charged with child neglect. She was remanded to the Bureau of Corrections after failing to make bail of \$1,000.