

The Virgin Islands Consortium

A 4-Year-Old Boy Was Found Dead In A Lorraine Village Apartment. Police Say He Was Badly Abused With Lacerations About His Body. The Mother Is In Custody; Mother's Boyfriend On The Loose.

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ST. CROIX -- A 4-year-old boy was found dead in his mother's Lorraine Village housing community apartment, with police stating that the boy was found badly abused, malnourished and had suffered lacerations about his body.

That's according to V.I.P.D. Public Information Officer Glen Dratte, who said the story was developing and that the mother, as of 6:00 p.m. Friday, was in custody and was being interviewed by detectives.

Mr. Dratte said the 911 emergency call center received notification of the incident at about 12:59 p.m. Officers and EMS personnel were immediately dispatched to the scene, and upon arrival, emergency personnel administered CPR on the boy to no avail.

Mr. Dratte said the VIPD's preliminary investigation with medical personnel into the incident also found that the boy had varying stages of lacerations. The lacerations suggested he was badly beaten.

The boy's father, who does not live with the mother, was at the V.I.P.D. as of 6:00 p.m. today for questioning.

Mr. Dratte said because the incident was still under investigation, no charges had been filed. Additionally, law enforcement officers were searching for the mother's boyfriend and were in the process of securing warrants in their effort to find him.

The deceased child, identified by his grandmother, was named Aaron Benjamin, Jr.

This is a developing story...