

Parents of slain child in court

BY JESS SULLIVAN
DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — Parents facing charges of negligence and child abuse in the shooting death of their 2-year-old daughter made their first court appearance Monday.

Michael and Daniela Shanahan did not enter pleas to felony charges and said they needed more time to try and hire a lawyer.

Commissioner Barbara James ordered the Vacaville couple, who are free on bail, to return to court Nov. 9 to be arraigned.

Two-year-old Anaya Shanahan was shot in the head and killed on Sept. 22 while her 8-year-old brother was playing with a handgun at their Syracuse Circle duplex.

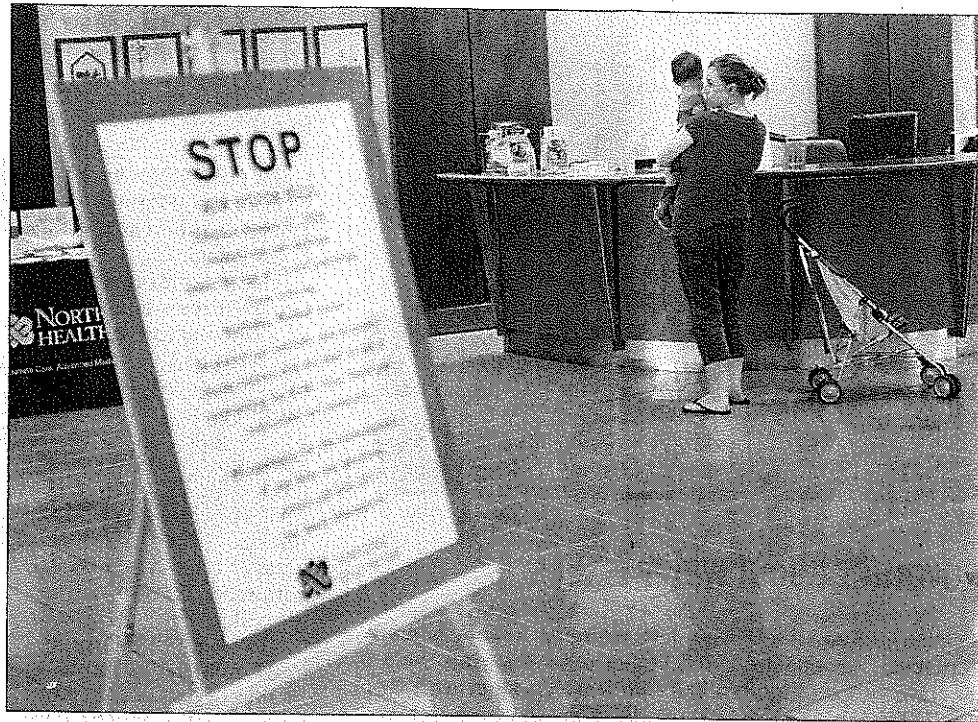
Vacaville police reportedly found six guns and ammunition in the house which was described by authorities as being in "extreme disarray" and "cluttered with household items and clothing." An unsecured Glock handgun was reportedly found on the headboard of the bed in the master bedroom.

Both parents face allegations of felony criminal storage of a firearm and felony child abuse or neglect.

The guns should not have been in the home at all because Daniela Shanahan is a convicted felon, according to Vacaville police. She was previously convicted of a felony DUI charge in Napa County.

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Kiwanis Club



Chris Jordan/Daily Republic

Micheala Te'o holds her daughter in the lobby of the North Bay Medical Center just beyond a sign that alerts visitors that as of today no visitors under the age of 16 will be allowed in the hospital to visit or accompany patients due to concerns over the H1N1 virus.

NorthBay restricts child access to hospitals over H1N1 worries

BY BARRY EBERLING
DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — NorthBay HealthCare is no longer allowing children under 16 to visit patients at its Fairfield and Vacaville hospitals.

The restriction is because of the H1N1 flu virus. Children are at higher risk than adults to get this type of flu and can remain infectious longer, even after symptoms are gone. The new policy is designed to protect children, patients and hospital staff, NorthBay officials said.

"We have to put the safety of the patients first and the safety of those who will be visiting a facility that has a growing number of patients with the flu," said Dr. Don Denmark, NorthBay HealthCare vice president of medical affairs, in a press release.

The hospitals will do everything possible to deal with extraordinary situations, he said.

"We know in some cases,

a visit will be warranted," he said.

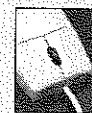
NorthBay's decision comes after the death of a 6-year-old Vacaville girl at the VacaValley Hospital emergency room a week ago. She came to the hospital with flu-like symptoms and tested positive for H1N1.

Many other hospitals across the nation have also restricted children from visiting patients. NorthBay spokeswoman Diane Barney mentioned Stanford Medical Center as an example.

Solano County's other hospitals -- Kaiser Permanente in Vallejo and Vacaville and Sutter-Solano Medical Center in Vallejo -- have yet to restrict child visitors, though they have some policies of their own.

"We are encouraging people not to come to the hospital (to visit) if they're sick, if they have a fever, sore throat, flu-symptoms," Kaiser spokesman Jim Carroompas said.

Sutter-Solano Medical



On the Web

To see a video explaining NorthBay's visitation policy, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuH7vBqkjbA>

Center has signs asking people who are ill not to visit patients.

"If we do see someone who is like this, we approach them and give them the appropriate advice," Sutter-Solano spokesman Sy Neilson said. "If there's a reason they need to visit, if there's an exception, we do insist they wear proper protective equipment."

The hospital will monitor the situation to see if it needs to change its visitation policy, he said.

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