

Woman Cleared in Death Of a Vietnamese Orphan

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A jury cleared a young mother Saturday of charges she murdered a Vietnamese orphan she and her husband planned to adopt, but found her guilty of child abuse in the case. The Rockdale County Superior Court jury deliberated more than eight hours yesterday and today.

The defendant, Mrs. Katherine Maltbie, 22 years old, has one child of her own. She could be sentenced to from one to five years in prison on the cruelty to children conviction.

Mrs. Maltbie and her husband, Richard, 25, both were charged in the death of 9-month-old Nguyen Thi Maltbie, who died of a skull fracture July 11 after 12 days in a coma at Egleston Children's Hospital in Atlanta. They had obtained the infant at a Saigon orphanage. The charges were dropped against her husband for lack of evidence.