

Scottsburg man arrested, charged with battering wife and young child

Written by Marty Randall

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A Scottsburg man remains in jail awaiting his trial on charges of battery to a child, strangulation, neglect of a dependent and domestic battery.

James D. Terry, 39, was taken into custody after allegedly admitting to striking his wife and shaking the couple's small son. Each of the charges filed in Scott Superior Court is a felony.

According to the probable cause affidavit prepared by Detective Rachel Eickholtz of the Indiana State Police, the incident occurred on February 16. The officer interviewed Terry's wife and Terry after being contacted by the Indiana Department of Child Services.

The woman said that her husband hit her on several occasions. On February 16, she said his anger was aimed at their child, born last July, because the baby would not stop crying. She said she saw Terry pick the child up by his head and neck and put his thumbs around the baby's nose and mouth, shaking him and yelling at the child to stop crying. She also told the officer that her husband threatened her with death if she contacted the police about the incident.

Terry's alleged actions reportedly left bruises on the child's head and injury marks on his neck and chest.

The officer said Terry initially denied hurting his son and wife but then admitted battering them and threatening his wife.

Bail was set at \$25,000 corporate surety bond or full cash by Judge Marsha Owens Howser. A date of April 22 was selected for the trial, and Terry was appointed a public defender.