



L.A. Woman Declared "Legally Insane" For Suffocating Her Baby

Associated Press
July 31, 2009

LOS ANGELES - A Los Angeles jury has found that a 23-year-old woman was legally insane when she suffocated her newborn daughter in 2004.

Defense attorney Alan Eisner said Friday Jeanne Ma is expected to be sentenced to a state psychiatric hospital for killing her baby while she was a high school student in Pacoima. She was convicted of second-degree murder and faced life in prison if the jury had found her legally sane.

Eisner says Ma, a Philippine immigrant, was suffering from acute stress disorder and was hearing voices at the time of her baby's birth at home.

Deputy District Attorney Ronda Brody says Ma did not mention hearing voices until six months after her arrest and was lying to beat a life sentence.