



# News Release

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections  
Public Safety Services

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Mother of Deceased Bastrop Toddlers Now in Police Custody**

**\*\*\*UPDATE - The mother of two toddlers who tragically died in a house fire earlier this week in Bastrop has been discharged from a Shreveport area medical facility and is now in police custody.**

**State Fire Marshal investigators arrested Ciarrria Johnson as she was discharged from Brentwood Hospital just after 4:00 p.m. today. Johnson will be booked into the Caddo Parish Correctional Center as a fugitive from Morehouse Parish, where she faces charges of Negligent Homicide.**

### **Unattended Toddlers Die in Fire; Mother Charged**

**Bastrop, LA - Two sibling toddlers lost their lives Monday in an early evening fire in Bastrop, and the mother of the children is facing criminal charges for leaving them home unattended.**

While investigators of the State Fire Marshal's Office are still piecing together their findings in the tragic fire that occurred on Pruet Street, one thing is certain: Ciarrria Johnson, 21, the mother of 4-year-old Ta'shae Thompson Johnson and her 3-year-old brother, Clifton Thompson Johnson, left her children unattended for hours as she was having her hair styled.

Johnson told investigators that prior to leaving her house at approximately 1:00 p.m., she had made preparations with a neighbor for the care of her children. Johnson also stated that there were two (2) gas space heaters in operation in the residence when she departed and that upon her return, the single-family, wood-framed structure was completely engulfed in fire.

However, investigators later determined that Johnson, in fact, had made no such arrangements and that she had returned home only after being contacted about the fire.

A thorough examination of the scene by investigators revealed that the control valve to a gas heater in the living room, where the fire is believed to have originated, was found in the "on" position. Investigators also determined that the cause of the fire was the close proximity of flammable materials to the space heater.

Johnson has been charged with two (2) counts of negligent homicide in the death of her children.

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