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Murder charge is filed despite rape accusation

Omaha (UPI) — A young Omaha woman who allegedly shot and killed a man who she contends raped her a week ago was charged with first degree murder Monday and ordered held without bond.

Charlene K. Lasley, 22, appeared before Municipal Judge A. Q. Wolf, who set a Sept. 20 preliminary hearing date.

Mrs. Lasley was charged in the Sunday night shooting of Michael E. Jackson, 21, of Omaha, who died from a .38-caliber bullet wound to the chest during an altercation at a North Omaha residence.

Mrs. Lasley told investigators Jackson had raped her while she slept following a party last week. However, investigators said no report was filed by Mrs. Lasley concerning the incident.

Wolf granted a poverty motion to allow the Douglas County public defender's office to represent Mrs. Lasley, who authorities said was the divorced mother of two, ages 4 and 15 months.

Thomas Marfisi, deputy public defender,

told Wolf Mrs. Lasley "has never been arrested for anything in her life" and urged the judge to consider a bond. Under Nebraska law, first degree murder is the only nonbondable offense.

The prosecution objected to a bond, and Wolf agreed, primarily because of the "seriousness" of the crime and the closeness of the preliminary hearing date.

A Douglas County pre-trial release spokesman told Wolf Mrs. Lasley came to Omaha from the Omaha Indian Reservation about 1½ months ago and had been living with her sister.

Prior to coming to Omaha, the spokesman said Mrs. Lasley was a lifelong resident of Macy.

Police sealed off the residence where the shooting occurred and took about 12 persons into custody. After the 12 were taken to police headquarters, investigators said Mrs. Lasley was identified as the suspect.

Police said at least two shots were fired at Jackson, but one missed.