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Bronx Woman Convicted of Poisoning and Drowning Her Children

By MARC SANTORA APRIL 8, 2016

A Bronx woman who researched methods to kill her children on the Internet, tried to poison them and ultimately drowned her infant daughter and 4-year-old son in a bathtub was found guilty of their murders on Friday.

The mother, Lisette Bamenga, 32, was convicted in a nonjury trial and will be sentenced on April 25.

According to prosecutors, Ms. Bamenga killed her children after she learned that her husband, Trevor Noel, a New York City police officer, had fathered a child with someone else.

Ms. Bamenga's lawyer, Michael G. Dowd, argued in court that his client had bipolar disorder and postpartum psychosis.

In court, prosecutors outlined the horrifying series of events that played out on July 5, 2012, when Ms. Bamenga, a teacher, made several cold and calculating attempts to kill her son, Trevor, and her daughter, 4-month-old Violet.

After reading that she needed two tablespoons of windshield wiper fluid to poison the children, they said, she laced their grape juice.

When the toxic brew failed to kill them, she drowned the children in the bathtub of the family's apartment on Noble Avenue in the Parkchester neighborhood.

Then she locked the bodies of the children in the kitchen and turned on the gas on the stove.

The day ended with Ms. Bamenga cutting her wrists and drinking the same wiper fluid she gave her children in a failed suicide attempt.

"The killing of these young children is a horrendous tragedy, and their mother has been held accountable for her actions," Darcel D. Clark, the Bronx district attorney, said in a statement.

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