

Child Abuse Suspect Stands Mute During Arraignment

**(KNZA)--A Hiawatha man accused of causing a severe head injury to a child stood mute during his arraignment Monday in Brown County District Court.**

**Brown County Attorney Kevin Hill says the court entered a not guilty plea on behalf of 25-year-old Frankie Rodriguez to charges of aggravated battery and felony child abuse.**

**Hill says a pre-trial hearing was set for January 9th.**

**Rodriguez was arrested in late August following an investigation by the Hiawatha Police Department and Kansas Bureau of Investigation.**

**The investigation was launched after a two-year-old girl was brought to the Hiawatha Community Hospital on August 26th with a severe head injury. The child was later flown to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, where she remains hospitalized.**

**Rodriguez remains in the Brown County Jail, held on a \$500,000 bond.**

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