

Mother pleads guilty in cocaine case

Prosecutors say she dealt drugs from Lynchburg home with infant nearby

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A Lynchburg woman who prosecutors say was a high-volume drug dealer selling cocaine with her infant beside her pleaded guilty Thursday to drug distribution and child neglect charges.

Julian "Jamaica" Jodian James, 22, will be sentenced in February in Lynchburg Circuit Court on two counts of distribution of cocaine and one count of felony child neglect, said Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Chuck Felmlee. She could face a life sentence plus 45 years.

Felmlee said the Lynchburg

Police Department worked with a cocaine user to identify and target known drug dealers in Lynchburg. The informant told police that James sold cocaine and also marijuana daily.

Then officers set up a controlled buy on July 2 where the informant bought less than half of a gram of crack cocaine for \$60

just off Federal Street.

Officers recorded the transaction, as well as James talking about her pregnancy, Felmlee said.

A second controlled buy happened on Aug. 20 at James' house at 335 McIvor St. for one-third of a gram of crack cocaine, worth \$100.

"The informant would have testified that when they arrived at the

defendant's residence, they went inside into the living room and the defendant was sitting on a couch with her newly born infant child, Felmlee wrote in the guilty proffer.

"In addition to having this very large bag of crack cocaine sitting on the floor next to her newborn

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