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News for Darien

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Police: Darien Man, 36, Struggled With Woman as She Held Their 3-Year-Old in Her Arms

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Date : July 31, 2018

A 36-year-old Darien man grabbed the mother of his three-year-old son while she was holding him and pushed her onto her back, while she continued holding the boy, police said.

Apparently she was on her back on a sofa, because the police account, provided by the woman, said the child slipped off of her onto the sofa when the man and woman were in a scuffle.

The man denied grabbing the woman while she held the boy, who wasn't hurt in the incident, police said. The mother had marks on her arms, according to police, who gave this description of what happened Sunday night, July 29, including accusations not proven in court (unless otherwise noted, the description of the

incident is from the woman's account):

Sometime before 10:15 p.m., when the woman reported the incident to police and met them at Police Headquarters, the couple got into a dispute at their home on Hoyt Street.

The woman said that during the argument, while she was holding the boy, Pandolfino made hand gestures close to her face, but didn't touch her at that point.

The woman said she then made the same hand gestures to Pandolfino without touching him, but at that point he grabbed her by her arms and pinned her down on her back while she was still holding the child.

The two scuffled, and the child, who was not injured, slipped off of her onto the sofa.

She then tried to leave the home to report the matter to police, but he followed her "and remained in the victim's personal space," police said.

She said she threw small household items at him to get him to back off as she tried to leave. Police saw that she had minor injuries on both arms when she spoke with them.

Police went to the home and met with Pandolfino. He said there was an argument, but the woman was the instigator. He said at one point he did grab her, but only to stop her from being physical with him. He said the woman threw a cell phone and shoes at him just before she left.

He denied that the woman was holding the three-year-old when he grabbed her.

In other police news:

— [Police: Man, 40, Gets Credit Card Declined, Can't Pay Cab Fare, Breaks Into Own Apartment, Gets Arrested](#) (July 31)

Based on the officer's investigation it was determined that probable cause existed to arrest Pandolfino.

He was charged with risk of injury to a child (a felony) and third-degree assault. Pandolfino was released on a \$5,000 cash bond and was scheduled to appear Monday in state Superior Court in Stamford.

Editor's note: Police did not identify the victim as a woman or a mother, but said the child is a son that "the victim has in common with Pandolfino."