# Couple deny gross negligence in newborn Victoria’s death amid harrowing trial and chaos



In a harrowing trial unfolding at the Old Bailey, the turbulent lives of Constance Marten and her partner Mark Gordon have come into sharp focus, with harrowing details emerging regarding the tragic death of their newborn daughter, Victoria. Prosecutors assert that the couple, after fleeing a vehicle fire near Bolton in January 2023, were on the run to evade the authorities and prevent their child from being taken into care. Their extensive evasion included a nationwide manhunt, as the pair implemented a desperate strategy to avoid interaction with law enforcement.

The court proceedings gained further complexity with the revelation that Gordon assaulted two police officers at a hospital shortly after Marten gave birth to an older sibling in 2017. During this incident, Gordon's erratic behaviour raised immediate concerns from the attending officers, especially as he provided false personal information while attempting to flee the scene. Officer Delma Jones described the unsettling scene, noting the intensity of the struggle that lasted for about ten minutes and the involvement of other civilians, including a newly minted father who intervened to help restrain Gordon during his attempts to escape.

The earlier trial provided a backdrop to the current proceedings, revealing that the couple had faced criminal charges before, including concealing the birth of a child. This conviction stemmed from their apprehension in Brighton, where authorities found them unwilling to disclose the location of their infant, which ultimately led to the tragic discovery of Victoria’s body. In a discarded shopping bag within a derelict shed, the authorities discovered the infant’s remains—a stark and chilling consequence of the couple's erratic choices and evasive behaviour.

Both Marten and Gordon have consistently denied charges of gross negligence manslaughter, asserting that they did not consciously neglect their children. Marten has publicly declared feeling responsible for Victoria’s death, stressing her anguish over a fateful incident where she fell asleep while co-sleeping with her daughter in a makeshift tent. She insisted, however, that the circumstances were driven by a lack of self-care rather than neglect, highlighting the disarray of their lives as they sought to escape intervention from social services.

Complementing the grim narrative are accounts from individuals who encountered Marten and Gordon during their attempts to evade capture. A taxi driver testified about a trip in which Victoria was transported wearing only a nappy, a disconcerting detail that painted a picture of neglect amidst their chaotic existence. This incident underscores the couple's dire circumstances, as they juggled their responsibility as parents with an overwhelming fear of losing yet another child to the authorities.

As the trial proceeds, with the couple remaining in custody facing a retrial set for March 2025, it serves as an unsettling reminder of the complexities of parental responsibility amid societal and legal pressures. With both defendants maintaining their innocence concerning the most severe charges, the ramifications of this case continue to unfold, instilling a sense of urgency and concern over similar societal issues surrounding child welfare and neglect.

The court's adjournment until Wednesday allows for further examination of the evidence, as jurors grapple with the harrowing blend of desperation, fear, and tragic outcomes that mark Marten and Gordon's troubled path.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/constance-marten-mark-gordon-trial-hospital-attack-b2758557.html), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cqee6p0enjno)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/constance-marten-mark-gordon-trial-hospital-attack-b2758557.html), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/29/constance-marten-trial-baby-wore-only-a-nappy-on-freezing-night-court-hears), [[6]](https://news.sky.com/story/constance-marten-and-mark-gordon-trial-baby-had-no-clothes-on-during-on-the-run-taxi-trip-jurors-told-13059612)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cqee6p0enjno), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-68218831), [[7]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/crime/constance-marten-trial-mark-gordon-manslaughter-b2518112.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/mar/08/constance-marten-court-feels-responsible-baby-death), [[7]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/crime/constance-marten-trial-mark-gordon-manslaughter-b2518112.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/mar/08/constance-marten-court-feels-responsible-baby-death), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/29/constance-marten-trial-baby-wore-only-a-nappy-on-freezing-night-court-hears)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/constance-marten-mark-gordon-trial-hospital-attack-b2758557.html), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-68218831)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/constance-marten-mark-gordon-trial-hospital-attack-b2758557.html), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cqee6p0enjno)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/constance-marten-mark-gordon-trial-hospital-attack-b2758557.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cqee6p0enjno> - Constance Marten and Mark Gordon were found guilty of two charges, including concealing the birth of their baby daughter, Victoria. The couple had been on the run since January 2023, leading to a nationwide manhunt. Victoria's body was discovered in a disused shed in Brighton in February 2023. The trial faced delays due to various factors, including a fire at the Old Bailey. A retrial is scheduled for March 2025, with the couple remaining in custody. Both deny the charges against them.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/29/constance-marten-trial-baby-wore-only-a-nappy-on-freezing-night-court-hears> - During the trial of Constance Marten and Mark Gordon, it was revealed that their newborn daughter, Victoria, was found wearing only a nappy during a taxi journey from Liverpool to Essex in early January 2023. The taxi driver testified that Marten was breastfeeding the baby during the trip and that the child appeared to have no clothing except for the nappy. The couple had been evading authorities after their car caught fire near Bolton, leading to a nationwide search.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/mar/08/constance-marten-court-feels-responsible-baby-death> - Constance Marten expressed feeling 'responsible' for the death of her newborn daughter, Victoria, during her trial. She stated that she felt responsible for falling asleep on her child while they were living in a tent on the run with her partner, Mark Gordon. Marten denied neglecting her baby, insisting that the infant died because she didn't look after herself while on the run. The couple had been evading authorities after their four other children were taken into care.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-68218831> - Constance Marten and Mark Gordon were accused of concealing the location of their newborn baby, Victoria, from police during their arrest in Brighton. The trial heard that the couple did not inform officers where their child was when apprehended. Dramatic video footage showed Marten being asked repeatedly about the baby's whereabouts, to which she did not respond. The couple faces charges including manslaughter by gross negligence and perverting the course of justice.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/constance-marten-and-mark-gordon-trial-baby-had-no-clothes-on-during-on-the-run-taxi-trip-jurors-told-13059612> - In the trial of Constance Marten and Mark Gordon, it was revealed that their newborn daughter, Victoria, was found wearing only a nappy during a taxi journey from Liverpool to Essex in early January 2023. The taxi driver testified that Marten was breastfeeding the baby during the trip and that the child appeared to have no clothing except for the nappy. The couple had been evading authorities after their car caught fire near Bolton, leading to a nationwide search.
7. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/crime/constance-marten-trial-mark-gordon-manslaughter-b2518112.html> - Constance Marten denied neglecting her baby during her trial, insisting that the infant died because she didn't look after herself while on the run. She stated that she loved her daughter, Victoria, so much that she wasn't thinking about herself. Marten and her partner, Mark Gordon, had been evading authorities after their four other children were taken into care. The couple faces charges including manslaughter by gross negligence and perverting the course of justice.