

February 2005: Tia Vinson will never see her three-year-old son grow up and she will never meet the son she was expecting because police say her boyfriend ended her life and that of her unborn child.

Springfield Lt. William Watkins says Vinson, 23, was stabbed to death Sunday night by her boyfriend Christopher Clinard. Vinson died from multiple stab wounds to her body. The two had been together for about one year, Watkins said, when Vinson decided to end the relationship.

“She apparently wanted out of the relationship, because she told him she was tired of putting up with his ways,” Watkins said. “Through interviewing him, he said he told her, “Before I see you with another man and another man raises my baby I’ll see you dead.”

Christopher Clinard, 29, of 21st Avenue, Springfield, remains behind bars without bond charged with criminal homicide. Other charges are pending in the death of the baby.

Vinson was scheduled to give birth to a baby boy in two weeks, Watkins said.

Springfield Det. Rickie Morris discovered through his investigation that the stabbing took place in the driveway of a home on Pitt Lane. Clinard then allegedly drove Vinson to another location seeking help.

“The call came in about 7:30 p.m. in reference to a stabbing victim on Seventh Avenue,” Watkins said. “Clinard stabbed her at the Pitt Lane address then drove her to a friend’s house on Seventh Avenue and informed his friend that he had stabbed Tia multiple times.”

“The friend walked out to the car and Clinard took off on foot. The friend had no phone, but got in the car to drive her to the hospital,” Watkins said.

But the friend never made it to the hospital with Vinson because of car problems.

“That’s when the friend saw Dr. John Bassel in his front yard and asked to use the doctor’s cell phone,” Watkins said.

Vinson finally made it to the hospital by ambulance, but neither she nor her baby could be saved.

“Tia was transported to NorthCrest Medical Center, but she was pronounced dead upon arrival,” Watkins said. “The doctors induced labor, but they were unsuccessful in saving the baby.”

Clinard will appear in court March 21.

Jerry Vinson has set up a trust fund in his daughter’s name at US Bank in Springfield. Funeral arrangements for Vinson are Friday at 1 p.m. at the Robertson County Funeral Home. Enter images and other content here