



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:
KCSO news release #09-026 / 11

Friday, May 22, 2009

Man arrested in Texas for taking children

Port Orchard, Wash. -- A 27 year-old man, a Port Orchard resident originally from Texas, is now in custody as he fled Washington State to return to Texas. The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office began this felony custodial interference investigation on Wednesday, May 20, after a woman called to report that her two daughters, ages 3 and 16 months-old, were taken from her on Monday, May 18.

The mother reported to the sheriff's office that her ex-boyfriend, Israel Perez, who is the biological father, took the two girls. She believes that he may have fled Washington State en route to Texas or San Miquel De Allende GTO, Mexico, where she says he has a home. The mother states that Perez is in the United States awaiting citizenship. The mother reported that Perez has had some past incidents, which makes her fearful for the safety of her children.

The mother had requested that an "Amber Alert" be initiated. The sheriff's office reviewed the facts of the case to determine if this case fit the stringent requirements for an Amber Alert. Due to the strict criteria of the Amber Alert protocol, this investigation did not allow for the activation of an Amber Alert.

Sheriff's detectives, however, immediately began to communicate with other law enforcement agencies in California and Texas.

U. S. Border Patrol agents were notified of the suspect and his vehicle description. The local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was enlisted to assist with the investigation as well as FBI offices in other states.

Detectives presented the case to the Kitsap County Prosecutor who obtained a \$500,000 arrest warrant for Perez on a charge of custodial interference, 1st degree.

Detectives determined that Perez was stopped for speeding on Interstate 10 by the University of Arizona Police Department (Tucson) Wednesday afternoon. He was subsequently released because the investigation had just begun and there was no arrest warrant issued at that time.

Through interviews and other law enforcement investigative techniques Perez was located. The suspect was arrested by the FBI and local law enforcement as he was arriving at a relative's home at approximately 10:00 a.m. this morning. He was booked into the Panola County Jail in Beckville, Texas.

The children are in custody of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. They will be working with Washington State authorities to reunite the children with their mother as soon as possible.

Local, state and federal law enforcement officers worked cooperatively throughout this investigation for a successful apprehension of the wanted individual and safe return of the two children.

The Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office will begin the legal process of having Perez extradited to Kitsap County.

###