



OFFICE OF  
Steve Boyer

# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-7101 • FAX 337-4923

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## Fugitive Bainbridge woman now in custody

**Port Orchard, Wash.** – After more than three years of being on the run for custodial interference, a Bainbridge Island woman is now in custody following her arrest this weekend.

Juliette Cybelle Gilbert, 37, was arrested by New Zealand Police at around midnight (Pacific time), Friday, in the community of Rotorua on New Zealand's north island. Her son, Sky Thomas Gilbert, 9, was with her at the time of her arrest.

Juliette Gilbert is now being held by New Zealand Immigration Services for unlawfully being in the country. Sky Gilbert has temporarily been placed into the care of New Zealand's Child, Youth and Family Services.

On or about April 3, 2002, Juliette Gilbert disappeared from Bainbridge Island with her son after failing to return Sky to his father, as designated by a court-ordered parenting plan, after a day's visitation and attendance at a birthday party. Sky's father, Roby Gilbert, and Juliette Gilbert are divorced.

Following an initial investigation, Juliette Gilbert was charged in Kitsap County Superior Court on April 12, 2002, with one count of custodial interference, 1<sup>st</sup> degree. She was subsequently charged with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution in U. S. District Court, Tacoma, on May 16, 2002.

Although Sheriff's Office investigators had spent thousands of man-hours attempting to find Juliette and Sky all leads proved futile until this past January, when Juliette and Sky were found to have been living in Welcome Bay, New Zealand, in the residence of Juliette's then boyfriend, Craig Henwood.

Henwood notified New Zealand civil authorities when Juliette and Sky suddenly picked-up and left without notice. It was then that Henwood discovered that Juliette was wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), following an Internet search of her name.

When the story about Sky's disappearance started receiving international media attention, Juliette eventually contacted civil authorities and surrendered the U. S. passports for herself and Sky to New Zealand Immigration Services. Juliette Gilbert was allowed 14 days to settle her personal affairs. She was released on her promise that she and Sky would voluntarily leave the country, by Feb. 7, and return to the United States. Instead, Juliette disappeared with Sky and went into hiding in New Zealand.

Recent information developed by the FBI and Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives led them to the tourist destination community of Rotorua, population approximately 70,000, located 280 miles north of New Zealand's capitol, Wellington. It was determined that Juliette Gilbert had applied to lease a residence for herself and Sky in Rotorua.

Acting on this information, investigators kept New Zealand authorities advised of Juliette's intended rental transaction. When Juliette Gilbert and her son arrived to pick-up house keys for the property, police were on hand and she was taken into custody without incident.

Sheriff's detectives are now coordinating plans with New Zealand authorities to return Juliette and Sky Gilbert to the United States within the immediate future.

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**Juliette Cybelle Gilbert**



**Sky Thomas Gilbert**

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