



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Corporal Wendy McGinnis
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

Re: Woman Arrested After Leaving 3 Small Children in Hot Car

Date: September 1, 2011

Case#: 2011-28285

Suspect:
Magdalene Zapp DOB 07/19/1983
510 Neal Lane
Spring Hill, Florida 34606

Charge: 3 counts of child neglect
\$15,000 bond

At approximately 11:00 am the Hernando County Sheriff's Office responded to the Coastal Way Plaza in Brooksville. They were called to the scene after receiving information that small children were heard crying in an unattended vehicle. When deputies arrived they located a vehicle, in the direct sun, with 3 very small children who were restrained in their car seats. The vehicle was not running and the rear untinted windows were cracked less than an inch. The children, whose names are not being released, were 7 months (who was covered with a blanket), 2 and 3 years old. The deputies documented the ambient air temperature to be 86 degrees with little or no breeze.

The driver of the vehicle was eventually located shopping in a store (after an overhead announcement in the store was made) and advised that she had only been in the store for 10 minutes. Magdalene Zapp W/F DOB 07/19/1983 was arrested on 3 counts of child neglect and is being held on a \$15,000 bond.

All 3 children were uninjured and were eventually turned over to another family member who responded to the scene. After the arrest the investigation was turned over to the Department of Children and Families, who were notified from the scene. "Children should never be left in a vehicle unattended. This is especially critical in extreme weather conditions such as high heat" said Sheriff Al Nienhuis.