



For Immediate Release

May 20, 2024

Case #MN24-2080

ENDANGERED JUVENILE FOUND SAFE

Menifee, CA – On Saturday, May 18, 2024, at about 8:00 P.M., a male juvenile who had been placed in foster care, was seen leaving their foster home and entering a vehicle belonging to his non-custodial mother near Palomar Road. After an extensive initial investigation, the Menifee Police Department collaborated with the California Highway Patrol to issue an Endangered Missing Advisory on social media. It was believed the mother, Marie Bernhardt, was taking the juvenile to the area of Claremont or Pomona.

On Monday, May 20, 2024, a community member notified Claremont Police that Bernhardt worked at a business in Claremont. Claremont Police responded to Bernhardt's place of work where she was evasive and would not share the location of the juvenile.

Claremont Police located the suspect's vehicle and Menifee Police Detectives worked with family members to locate the juvenile unharmed in a nearby residential area.

Child Protective Services responded and took custody of the juvenile. He was taken to a local medical facility for precautionary evaluation and the mother was arrested.

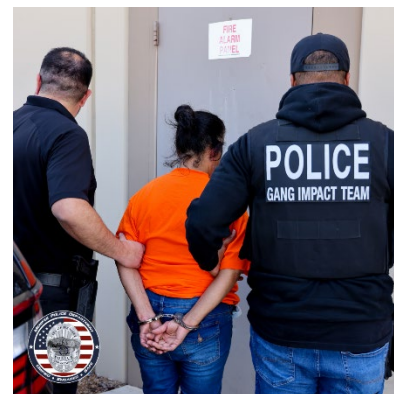
While the child was found safe, this is an ongoing investigation, and anyone with additional information regarding this case is asked to contact Detective Alcalá at valcala@menifeepolice.org.

Media Contact

Chase Coburn

Community Engagement Specialist

(951) 723-1516 | ccoburn@menifeepolice.org



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Chris Karrer

Chief of Police

