



SANTA ANA POLICE DEPARTMENT



NEWS RELEASE

Date: 3/29/2007
Contact: Sgt. Lorenzo Carrillo
(714) 245-8715

JOINT EFFORT RESULTS IN RESCUE OF 4-YEAR-OLD GIRL

The Santa Ana Police Department, in collaboration with Mexican authorities (Agencia Federal de Investigaciones), has located four-year-old Josahina Banuelos and her father, Jose Guadalupe Banuelos Heredia., in Mexicali, Mexico. Both were found in good health and are currently in the custody of Mexican authorities.

On 3/25/06 at 11:00 a.m., during court-ordered visitation, the father and mother of the child, who are separated, argued over domestic issues. Jose Banuelos walked away with four-year-old Josahina Banuelos in violation of a court order. Mr. Banuelos maintained telephonic contact with various family members and made statements to them regarding having suicidal thoughts.

Information developed by detectives of the Family Violence Unit led them to Mexicali, Mexico where the pair was found at a relative's home this morning at about 10:30 a.m. Josehina was placed into protective custody by Mexican authorities and Mr. Banuelos was detained pending deportation. Once in the United States Mr. Banuelos will be arrested for various charges related to domestic violence and child concealment.

Detectives are currently working with Mexican authorities to have mother and daughter reunited. It is unknown when this will take place.

###