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## NEWS RELEASE

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Roberto A. Villaseñor  
Chief of Police

**Contact:** Maria Hawke  
Sergeant / Public Information Office  
520-791-4852  
On-call PIO: [tucsonpdpio@gmail.com](mailto:tucsonpdpio@gmail.com)  
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police>

**Date:** 04/21/2012  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### SUSPICIOUS DISAPPEARANCE / POSSIBLE ABDUCTION 5600 BLOCK EAST 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET

**\*\*\*UPDATE – JANUARY 15, 2014\*\*\***

In an ongoing effort to develop information regarding the disappearance of Isabel Celis, the Tucson Police Department has deployed police investigators to the area of Broadway Boulevard and Craycroft Road, near the Celis family home. Officers are re-canvassing the area in an attempt to generate new leads or information. Officers will be in the neighborhood for several days, going to door to door speaking to residents and looking for any information which could assist the case. A Command Post has been set up near the Celis home and approximately fifty commissioned personnel will be involved in the canvassing effort. Anyone with information is urged to contact 911 or 88-CRIME.

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Sergeant Chris Widmer – January 15, 2014

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**\*\*\*UPDATE – MAY 11, 2012\*\*\***

In the course of the continuing investigation into the disappearance of six year-old Isabel Celis, the Tucson Police Department has been in contact with Child Protective Services (CPS). Recently, detectives became aware of information regarding the welfare of the older Celis children. That information was shared with CPS for their consideration and determination relating to this investigation. Yesterday, CPS personnel responded to police headquarters to consult with detectives as well as the family. Subsequent to their assessment, CPS instituted certain measures to ensure the continued welfare of the Celis children. It needs to be stressed that is common practice for CPS to become involved in investigations regarding missing children. However, in keeping with our commitment to keep members of the media and our community informed of changes or developments in this investigation, we felt it important to advise you of the increased involvement of CPS.

Finally, because of the sensitive nature of this investigation, we will not be providing any additional information on this situation at this time.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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Chief of Police

Lieutenant Fabian Pacheco - May 11, 2012

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Throughout the day on April 21, 2012, the Tucson Police Department, in conjunction with numerous other law enforcement entities, worked diligently to investigate the **suspicious disappearance and possible abduction of 6-year old Isabel Mercedes Celis**. The Tucson Police Department was first advised of the disappearance via a 911 call that was received at 8:14 a.m. on April 21, 2012. Officers from Operations Division East initially responded to a residence in the **5600 Block of East 12<sup>th</sup> Street**, where Isabel Celis, her parents, and her two older brothers live. Upon arrival, the officers learned that the family had last seen Isabel at approximately 11:00 p.m. on the evening of April 20, 2012. At that time, she was in the residence, preparing to go to bed. At approximately 8:00 a.m. on April 21, 2012, it was discovered that she was no longer in the residence when a family member went into her room to wake her for planned activities. They conducted a quick search of the house before calling 911 to report that she was missing.

The initial responding officers quickly cordoned off the area and conducted another search of the residence as well. As it was evident that Isabel was not in the residence, additional resources were summoned to assist with the investigation of her disappearance and attempts to locate her. The Tucson Police Department called upon the **Federal Bureau of Investigation**, who responded to the area with both **Investigative Agent personnel and an Evidence Recovery Team**. Additionally, the Tucson Police Department asked for and received assistance from the **United States Marshall's Office**, who provided a contingent of personnel who participated extensively in the neighborhood search activities. Also, **canine handlers with their canine partners**, specifically bloodhounds, from the **Arizona Department of Corrections** were requested and responded to assist. **Search and Rescue personnel from the Pima County Sheriff's Department and the multi-agency Rapid Response Team** responded at the request of the Tucson Police Department. The **Tucson Fire Department** assisted with some equipment and personnel needs. The Tucson Police Department also utilized numerous **field patrol resources, the Tucson Police Department Air Unit, various investigative resources (Sex Offender Tracking and Registration – SORT – Unit, Dependent Child Unit, Child Sexual Assault Unit, Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, and Aggravated Assault Unit)**, as well as **analyst support** in order to further the investigation. All potential avenues of investigation have been vigorously explored throughout the day and evening on April 21, 2012. Search efforts will continue through the evening of April 21, 2012 and into April 22, 2012 as needed. The Tucson Police Department is committed to the mission of finding Isabel and ensuring her safety, utilizing any and all resources that are available.

Isabel has been described as a **light-skinned Caucasian or Hispanic 6-year old female**. She is **44” tall and weighs approximately 44 pounds**. Her **hair is light brown** and **her eyes are hazel** in color. She was last seen with her hair braided into two long braids. She is missing two of her front teeth, one on the upper row of teeth and one on the bottom row of teeth. There is no information available regarding what she was wearing at the time of her disappearance.

The Tucson Police Department urges anyone who locates Isabel or has knowledge of her whereabouts to call **911 or 88-Crime** immediately. A photograph of Isabel is included below.

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Chief of Police



**Isabel Mercedes Celis**

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