



NEWS RELEASE

Roberto A. Villaseñor
Chief of Police

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

Date: 12/30/2011
TDD: 791-2639

CHILD ABUSE ARREST 6600 BLOCK SOUTH VIA VISTA DE SANTA CRUZ

On the evening of December 29, 2011 at approximately 6:56 p.m., the Tucson Police Department was notified of an incident in which **three young children were found on the side of the road** in the 6600 Block of South Via Vista De Santa Cruz. The children included a **male that was just under 6 months old, a male that was just under 15 months old, and a female that was approximately 2 1/2 years old**. A citizen that lived in the area called 911 to report that she found the children after she heard crying coming from the front yard of her residence. The citizen reported that the children appeared to have been left abandoned on the side of the road, near a desert area, due to the fact that there was a diaper bag containing miscellaneous items with them and the smallest child was in a car seat. The female child had walked to the front yard of the citizen's residence and was crying, which is what the citizen heard. Officers from Operations Division South responded to the area and began their search for the parents of the children.

After approximately two hours, the mother of the children approached officers in the area and advised them that she was looking for her children. She told the officers that the father of the children was supposed to be caring for them. Earlier in the evening on December 29, 2011, she and the father had engaged in an argument. He then left her residence with the children. Approximately 45 minutes after he left her house, she received a telephone call from him, advising that he had left the children on the side of the road in a neighborhood near her house. She immediately began to look for the children and soon came upon the officers that had responded to the report of the found children.

Detectives from the Dependent Child Unit responded to further the investigation into the actions and whereabouts of the father. Officers from Operations Division Midtown located the father later in the evening on December 29, 2011 and took him into custody. The detectives confirmed that he had engaged in an argument with the mother of the children before leaving her residence and then abandoning the children on the side of the road. The father, identified as **20-year old Shawn Wilson-Toliver**, also admitted that he had previously left the children alone at his apartment.

Ultimately, Mr. Wilson was arrested for **3 counts of Child Abuse, a Class 2 Felony**. He was transported and booked into the Pima County Jail. His booking photograph is attached below.

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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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Shawn Wilson-Toliver

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