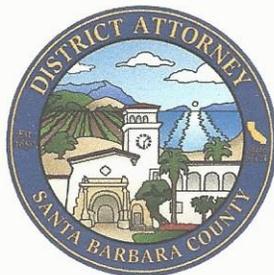


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 08-320

RELEASE NUMBER

August 26, 2015

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Brandon Jebens, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT PERSON (805) 346-7544

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

August 26, 2015

Re: *People v. Michelle Christine Gibbs*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that two Orcutt children missing since February of 2015 have been located. Cassidy Gibbs, 4, and Gabriella Gibbs, 6, were safely recovered on August 21, 2015, at Los Angeles International Airport by a Santa Barbara County District Attorney Investigator and Victim Advocate. Their mother, 44 year-old Michelle Christine Gibbs, also of Orcutt, was arrested by U.S. Marshals pursuant to a felony child abduction warrant, in violation of Penal Code section 278.5.

Gibbs and the two girls went missing shortly after a child custody hearing in Santa Maria Superior Court on February 26 of this year. Their whereabouts and condition remained unknown until Tuesday, August 18, 2015, when Michelle surrendered herself and the two children at the U.S. Consular Agency in San Jose del Cabo (Los Cabos), Baja California Sur, Mexico. All three appeared to be in good health and returned to the United States accompanied by Mexican immigration officials on Friday, August 21, 2015. The girls were reunited with their father on August 24.

Gibbs posted bail in the amount of \$100,000 and is scheduled to be arraigned on September 15, 2015, in Santa Maria Superior Court, Department 9.

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office and Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department led this investigation and were generously assisted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshals Office, California Department of Justice, U.S. State Department, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Instituto Nacional De Migracion (Mexican Immigration), National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Ventura County District Attorney's Office, and various other law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and Mexico.

"Child abduction, even when it is carried out by a known party, is many parents' worst nightmare," commented D.A. Dudley. "The safe return of our children is consistently the greatest concern of the District Attorney's Office. Throughout the process of working these cases, which are often fraught with frustrating delays and legal complications, the well-being of the children remains our highest priority."

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