

## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF KERN

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**CONTACT:** ADA Joseph Kinzel (661) 868-1131

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Approved by JAK Press Release #21-21

## Re: ENDANGERED MISSING CHILD ADVISORY-PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION ARREST AND CHILD RETURNED

Yesterday, the Kern County District Attorney's Office Child Abduction Unit requested the public's help in finding a child who was abducted by his mother on March 4, 2021. The child, Noah Jax Alexander Hernandez, was abducted by his mother, Amanda Nicole Hernandez, who does not have custodial rights of her son. Noah Hernandez was considered at risk and is believed to be in the Bakersfield area. A felony arrest warrant was issued for Amanda Hernandez.

On the evening of March 18, Amanda Hernandez voluntarily surrendered on the warrant and returned Noah safely to investigators. Noah was returned to the custodial parent, and Amanda Hernandez was booked on the arrest warrant, which was issued for illegally withholding a child from the custodial parent.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office Child Abduction Unit exists to help investigate parental child abduction investigations. When a parent reports that his or her child is missing, the child's welfare is paramount, and locating and recovering the child must be the primary goal. Under California Penal Code Sections 277-280, child abduction is defined as the malicious taking, enticing away, keeping, withholding or concealing of any child with the intent to detain or conceal that child from their legal custodian, when the persons involved in this act do not have a legal right or custody of the child. It is a state mandate that every county in California have a Child Abduction Unit located in their District Attorney's Office.

## Noah Hernandez:



Amanda Hernandez

