



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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Wandering Two-Year-Old Found Alone in Palm Coast

Mother Arrested for Neglect After Visitor "Saw Something, Said Something"

PALM COAST, FL – On July 1, deputies responded to a report of an unattended, wandering child near 54 Club House Drive in a roadway.

A visitor on vacation found a two-year-old boy at the entrance to the parking lot along Club House Drive. He did not have any injuries but was wearing a blue onesie pajama outfit and a very soiled diaper. She stood by with the child, hoping to locate a parent nearby, but decided to call the Sheriff's Office shortly after 9 a.m. for help.

Deputies took custody of the child and using a car seat the child was taken to the FCSO Palm Coast District Office. While the Department of Children and Families (DCF) was notified to respond, deputies began searching the complex for vehicles with baby seats and anyone who may have been searching for the child.

Deputies discovered a condo unit with its front door wide open and woke up the occupant who had been sleeping. She identified herself as Isabella Tucci, 22, of Palm Coast and confirmed that she was the mother of the two-year-old boy that was found wondering in the roadway.

Tucci stated that she last saw her son at 2 a.m. when she put him down to sleep in his bedroom and that she had not checked on him since. She said she was asleep until Deputies had arrived at approximately 10:30 a.m. When asked about the last time the child had been fed, she pointed to an open box of cereal on the kitchen floor and said it was possible he had eaten it, but she was unsure because she was asleep.

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Tucci also said that her child has been able to unlock and open doors and that it has been an ongoing issue. Deputies observed that Tucci had not taken any action to install child-proof locks.

Deputies noted the condo unit, located on the second floor of the building, has a stairway which is an elevated fall hazard. A canal, which is considered a water hazard, is just behind the building. Additionally, the entrance to the condos – where the child was found – is located along Club House Drive, a heavy traffic thoroughfare between Palm Harbor Parkway and Palm Coast Parkway.

Open containers of alcohol were also found in the home, which was cluttered with trash and food on the floors. When Tucci showed the deputies her son’s room, there were no articles of clothing for him observed in the room.

While speaking with a DCF investigator, Tucci shared that she recently tested positive in a drug test for THC and alcohol a few days ago. The investigator conducted a drug test on site, and Tucci tested positive for Methadone. The DCF took custody of the child and is continuing their investigation and working on a Safe Parenting Plan for the child.

Tucci was arrested for Neglect of a Child without Great Bodily Harm and has posted \$2,500 bond and was released from the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility.



Isabella Tucci (Flagler County jail mugshot)

“Obviously, this mother won’t be mother of the year unless she can turn her life around and put her child first instead of illegal drugs,” said Sheriff Rick Staly. “This was a very sad situation that could have turned out a whole lot worse. Thankfully, a concerned visitor ‘saw something’ and decided to ‘say something’ potentially saving a life. Parents, make sure your doors are properly secured and your homes are child proofed. Otherwise, we and DCF will get involved. Hopefully, this young mother will get the help she needs and turn her life around.”

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