

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

AMBER ALERT DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEAR PRISON TERM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo announced today that on September 1, 2017 Judge Pamela Butler sentenced Carmen Rogelio Maldonado, age 28, to eight years in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for the crimes of kidnapping a child under age of fourteen, child abuse and auto theft.

On April 14, 2016, a black 2015 Honda Accord was stolen from a driveway of a residence in the City of Soledad with a two-year-old baby boy secured in the back seat. The father of the child left the child and car unattended in the driveway at approximately 6:45 a.m. to run back into the home momentarily. The defendant driving by with two friends, seized the opportunity to steal the vehicle from the residential neighborhood. The father called 911 and the Soledad Police Department responded. An Amber Alert was issued by the California Highway Patrol.

The investigation determined that Maldonado, a resident of Gonzales, drove the vehicle north on highway 101 and parked the car with the child secured in an infant seat in a shed off River Road at approximately 8 a.m. Maldonado locked the child inside the car and took the child's bag containing asthma medication.

At approximately 1330 hours, an employee of Taylor Farms Fresh Food was checking on a nearby field and recognized the vehicle as the one in the Amber Alert from hours prior, and alerted law enforcement. Officers arrived at the scene and had to break the driver's side window to rescue the child from the abandoned Honda. The child was warm and sweaty but appeared unharmed. Later in investigation the child's allergist, Dr. Daniel Mora of Monterey, told DA officials that an asthma attack caused by stress, excessive crying or dehydration could have been fatal.

The Soledad Police Department was assisted by Gonzales Police Department, Monterey County Sheriff's Office, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Monterey County District Attorney Investigators and the FBI.