



Fresno County Sheriff's Office

Margaret Mims, Sheriff **April 27, 2009**

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Grandmother Arrested For Throwing 18 Month Old Child

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims today announced the arrest of a Mendota woman in connection with injuring her 18 month old grandson. Arrested was 48 year old Valentina Mendoza.

Yesterday evening, shortly after 6:30pm, deputies responded to Mendoza's home located in the 600 block of Inez St regarding a family disturbance.

Deputies learned that earlier, Mendoza's 22 year old daughter had arrived at the residence with the 18 month old to visit Mendoza. Mendoza was not at home but arrived a short time later.

While in the front yard, Mendoza's daughter was holding the 18 month old and her 1 year old niece in her arms. Over the next few minutes, Mendoza started yelling her daughter about one of the children. Mendoza apparently lost her temper and grabbed the 18 month old from her daughter's arms. She started swing the child by her arms and then let him go. The child flew about six feet before landing head first on the ground. The incident caused severe swelling to the child's face and a laceration his mouth area.

When deputies arrived, they found Mendoza in the back yard of the house. She was taken into custody after a short scuffle with deputies. Mendoza was later booked into the Fresno County Jail on

charges of child abuse, battery with serious injury, battery, and resisting arrest.

Emergency Medical personnel arrived to care for the child. He was transported to Community Regional Medical Center for treatment of his injuries. Luckily, the child's injuries looked worse than they were and he is expected to make a complete recovery