

Police arrest suspect in child abduction

April 21, 2022



Nevada police have arrested Santos Flores, a suspect in an alleged child abduction of his 14-year-old stepdaughter who voluntarily left home to visit him last July. The child is a member of the Yurok Tribe.

Local law enforcement agencies had been working “on a daily basis” with the FBI, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other local agencies in Redding, Sonoma and Santa Rosa areas, according to Crescent City Police Chief Richard Griffin.

The child was last seen in by her parents in July 2021. Police believe that the child voluntarily left her home in Crescent City to stay with her stepfather in Santa Rosa.

Flores is currently married to the child’s mother, Sheila Reed. The child abduction charge arises from the suspect’s failure or unwillingness to return the child to her mother or father, Brandon Whisenant.

A child abduction under Penal Code section 278 occurs when a “person, not having a right to custody... maliciously takes, entices away, keeps, withholds, or conceals any child with the intent to detain or conceal that child from a lawful custodian.” The offense can be charged as a misdemeanor or a felony.

“There is no indication of danger,” Chief Griffin said.

An arrest warrant was obtained when Flores failed to meet with law enforcement at a scheduled interview.

A Nevada officer observed the Flores vehicle engaged in a traffic violation, the officer initiated a stop, and, during the subsequent detention, was informed of the California warrant.

The child will be reunited with her parents.