

Police: Nanny Leaves 3-Year-Old Alone, Playing with Steering Wheel in Running Car in Parking Lot

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A 51-year-old nanny left a three-year-old child in a locked, running vehicle for about 10 minutes in the parking lot at Darien Town Hall, Darien police said. The child was unharmed.

Police described what happened with this account, including accusations not proven in court:

At 9:03 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19, police received a report about the matter. Officers who went to the parking lot were told by witnesses that the child had been alone in the vehicle for about 10 minutes.

Officers were dispatched to a parking lot at Town Hall for the report of a small child left unattended in a vehicle. Upon arrival, witnesses on scene told officers that a small child, later identified as being three years old, had been left alone in the vehicle for approximately 10 minutes.

The vehicle was running, and the keys were in the ignition as the three-year-old played with the steering wheel in the driver's seat. The child

Soon after police arrived, the child's nanny, Claudia Ortiz of Bridgeport, returned. She told police she was dropping off another child at an event in Town Hall, but the child still in the vehicle hadn't wanted to get out because it was cold outside.

Police contacted a parent of the two children; the parent went to the parking lot.

Ortiz, of Ashley Street in Bridgeport, was charged with leaving a child unattended and received a

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misdemeanor summons and was released after promising to appear March 1 in state Superior Court in Stamford.