



SAN BENITO POLICE

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PRESS RELEASE

ABANDONING OR ENDANGERING A CHILD, POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA (DRUGFREE ZONE)

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2013



On Wednesday February 13, 2013 at 09:07pm, a Patrol Officer conducted a traffic stop on a green Dodge Ram pickup truck for a defective tail lamp on the 200 block of S. Sam Houston. As the Officer approached the vehicle, he could see a lot of movement by the driver which raise suspicion that the driver may be trying to conceal something. The Officer made contact with the driver who identified himself as 34 year old Antonio Morales. The Officer asked the driver why he was moving around and the Mr. Morales stated he was playing with his 6 month old baby girl who was in her car seat in the back passenger seat. The Officer noticed that the child was asleep which raised even more suspicion. The Officer asked Mr. Morales where he was coming from. He stated he was coming from HEB but the Officer was behind the vehicle for some time and Mr. Morales was nowhere near HEB. The Officer asked a female passenger, who was the wife, if there was something illegal in the vehicle and she stated if there was she didn't know about it. Officer was given consent to search the vehicle and the Officer located an open clear plastic bag containing marijuana. The bag was on top of the child's teething toy near her arm and in reach of the child. Mr. Morales admitted to placing the marijuana there in a panic and stated his wife had no idea that he placed it there. The Officer arrested Mr. Morales and transported him to the city jail. The Officer charged him with Abandoning or Endangering a Child and Possession of Marijuana (Drug Free Zone) because the offense occurred within 1,000ft of Landrum Park. Justice of the Peace Judge David Garza arraigned him and bond was set at \$4,000 dollars.