



# **SAN BENITO POLICE**

**601 NORTH OSCAR WILLIAMS RD SAN BENITO, TEXAS. 78586**

**PH: 956-361-3880 FAX: 956-361-3888**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ABANDONING OR ENDANGERING A CHILD**

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**



On Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 08:47 am. San Benito Police responded to the 1600 Block Of West Business 77 in reference to a child just wearing diapers standing on the curb by the roadway. Upon the Police Officers arrival they made contact with several concerned citizens who witnessed the child next to the road, and rushed to get him out of harm's way. The child then led the concerned citizens to a mobile home where they attempted to make contact with someone at the residence but no one answered. The Officers then knock on the door, but no one answered. The 4 year old boy then opened the door, and the Officers discovered a 3 month old girl unattended strapped into a car seat by the living room area. The Officers announced their presence inside the house, and discovered a 29 year old male later identified as Juan Antonio Villafranca out of San Benito asleep in a room. Juan Antonio Villafranca then advised the Police Officers that he fell asleep, and was under the belief that his wife had taken the children with her. The Police Officers made contact with the suspect's wife who advised the Officers that she had taken another child to the Doctor's Office, and left the children with the suspect. Juan Antonio Villafranca was then placed under arrest and charged with two counts of child endangerment. Suspect had also an active warrant of arrest issued by the Cameron County Sheriff's Department. Juan Antonio Villafranca was taken to City Jail where he was arraigned by Municipal Judge Ben Yudesis who set bonds totaling \$20,000. Suspect was later taken to the Cameron County Jail. Child Protective Services were notified, and are currently investigating the incident.

Authority to Release: Detective Rogelio Banda Jr. # 124

956-361-3880 ext. 131