



STATE OF INDIANA
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For Immediate Release

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**Woman Arrested After Leaving Small Children Alone
More Than an Hour at Shopping Mall**

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (Sept. 6) – Indiana State Excise Police officers arrested a woman after she left her children alone in a shopping mall parking lot for more than an hour Saturday evening.

Excise police officers arrested Jennifer Morgan, 29, of Henderson, Ky., around 8:45 p.m., preliminarily on two outstanding arrest warrants and a writ of attachment.

While on patrol near Eastland Mall, 800 N. Green River Road, excise officers saw mall security trying to stop two young children walking with a small bicycle in the parking lot. Officers determined that the 10-year-old boy and 2-year-old girl had been left alone with their mother's car, which had the windows rolled down and keys in the ignition.

Officers spent the next hour attempting to locate the children's mother inside the mall. One officer also called numerous telephone numbers programmed in the cell phone left in the car, in an attempt to locate a family member. Eventually, officers spoke with family members, who came to the mall. While waiting for the children's relatives to arrive, officers continued looking for Morgan. During their search, an officer learned that Morgan had her nails done at a salon inside the mall, but had left there for other shopping.

Eventually, Morgan left the mall with an 8-year-old girl. She was then arrested on the outstanding arrest warrants and writ of attachment. The children were released to a family member.

Police also investigated a possible theft of merchandise from Wet Seal.

Excise officers filed paperwork with the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office for theft and neglect of a dependent. Child Protective Services and an Evansville Police Department officer assisted with this investigation.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on enforcing Indiana's alcohol and tobacco statutes. You can now follow the excise police on Twitter (@ExcisePolice), where information and updates are posted daily.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

