



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

For Immediate Release
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Woman Arrested for Child Abuse

Pueblo, CO: A Pueblo County Sheriff's School Resource Officer arrested a 36-year-old woman Thursday for child abuse in an incident involving her three children.

Staff at a Pueblo County District 70 elementary school notified the school resource officer that a student had reported that their mother was driving recklessly as she drove the child and two siblings to school Thursday morning. The child said the mother, who reportedly had been drinking the night before and again that morning, had veered off the road twice and was driving into oncoming traffic, scaring the child and their siblings.

The School Resource Officer further investigated the incident and learned that one of the children had visible injuries, which were reportedly inflicted by the mother Thursday morning before she took them to school. That child was taken to a local hospital for treatment of the injuries.

As a result of the investigation, deputies arrested Chelsea Valenzuela for child abuse and three counts of child abuse (knowingly and recklessly). She has been booked into the Pueblo County Jail.

The three children have been placed in the Department of Human Services' custody.

This is the fourth arrest made by Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies for child abuse in two weeks. All four arrests were a result of staff at District 70 schools notifying the sheriff's office of the suspected abuse. Education professionals are mandatory reporters and are legally bound to report suspected abuse.

"Again, I commend the work of the District 70 school staff and our School Resource Officers for their work on these very difficult cases, which appear to be all too common as of late," said Pueblo County Sheriff David J. Lucero. "

Sheriff Lucero reminds adults that if they are struggling or stressed out to reach out for help in the community.



If you are concerned about a child's wellbeing, see evidence of abuse or witness a child being harmed, we ask that you report it. If it is a life-threatening situation, call 9-1-1 immediately, otherwise, you can call the following non-emergent numbers: Pueblo County Sheriff's Office (719) 583-6250; Pueblo Police (719) 553-2502; Pueblo 24-Hour Reporting Line (719) 583-6901 or the Colorado Abuse Reporting Line 1-844-264-5437.

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