

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 08-321

RELEASE NUMBER

August 27, 2015

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Wesley Meyer, Deputy District Attorney

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

August 27, 2015

Re: People v. Faith Merritt; Case No. 1476988

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that she has filed criminal charges against Faith Merritt, date of birth: August 29, 1983. Ms. Merritt is being charged with violating Penal Code section 278.5, Withholding a Child from a Parent, and Penal Code section 166(a)(4), a violation of a court order for not abiding by the terms of a court ordered custody arrangement. The charges stem from Ms. Merritt taking her son, Maxwell DiNardo, date of birth: April 22, 2012, from the Santa Barbara County area in late July 2015. At that time, Faith Merritt did not exchange custody with Maxwell's father per the terms of their custody agreement and the father lost contact with Merritt. Maxwell's father contacted the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office and made a report of the missing child. The case is currently under investigation. A warrant has been issued for Ms. Merritt's arrest. Faith Merritt and Maxwell DiNardo are believed to be in the Northern California area. If you have any information as to the whereabouts of Faith Merritt and Maxwell DiNardo, please contact Santa Barbara District Attorney Investigator Jesse Rose at 805-568-2360.

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