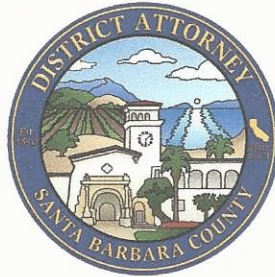


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 09-323

RELEASE NUMBER

September 2, 2015

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Wesley Meyer, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT PERSON (805) 568-2436

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

September 2, 2015

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

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Faith Merritt, of Carpinteria, California, was arrested and taken into custody today in Siskiyou County by the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office. Faith Merritt was being sought due to her alleged abduction of three-year old Maxwell DiNardo, a resident of Santa Barbara County. It is further alleged that Ms. Merritt shared joint custody of Maxwell with his father, who reported the boy missing in early August after Ms. Merritt failed to exchange custody with the father. Maxwell is safe and will be turned over to the custody of his father.

Ms. Merritt will be transported to Santa Barbara County where she will be arraigned on charges of felony child abduction and violating a court order for failing to comply with the court-ordered custody arrangement.

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