



# OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF KERN

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Press Release #46**

Today, Kern County District Attorney Cynthia J. Zimmer announced that investigators with the District Attorney's Child Abduction Unit have located missing 8 year-old Susana Moreno and she has been returned unharmed to her proper custodial parent. After receiving the case as a referral from the Bakersfield Police Department, District Attorney Investigators worked with the custodial parents of Susana and were able to successfully locate Susana, where she appeared to have been recently dropped off at relative's house. It was reported that Susana was not properly returned to the custody of her biological father on August 25<sup>th</sup>, as required by a shared custody order between Susana's biological mother and father. Susana's biological mother was not present at the scene when Susana was located.

Notified of Susana's return, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented, "The return of Susana to her custodial parent is the culmination of concentrated efforts of the District Attorney Investigators in the Child Abduction Unit and other law enforcement agencies that assisted in searching for signs of Susana's whereabouts, including the Bakersfield Police Department and California Highway Patrol."

The willful violation of custodial orders by a biological parent can have criminal consequences under Penal Code Section 278, which makes the taking, keeping, withholding, or concealing of a child with the intent to keep the child from the lawful custodian punishable as a misdemeanor or felony offense and as many as four years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. Though Susana has been safely located, investigation in the case is still ongoing.