

## Mother accused in CHP chase enters plea | Child endangerment among charges filed

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### Document Text

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VISTA -- A patent attorney from Poway, accused of leading a CHP officer on a brief chase because she wanted to get her child to school on time, pleaded not guilty yesterday to misdemeanor counts of evading an officer and child endangerment.

Stacy Lee Taylor, 44, was arrested Jan. 16 by the California Highway Patrol officer after a 10-minute pursuit that ended outside the Del Mar Pines School in Carmel Valley. She was released from custody after posting \$60,000 bail.

She faces additional charges of resisting an officer -- a misdemeanor -- and failure to provide proof of insurance. If convicted, Taylor could spend up to two years and six months in jail, and pay a number of fines, said Deputy District Attorney Douglas Gregg.

Because these are misdemeanor offenses, Taylor was not required to appear in Superior Court yesterday for her arraignment. Instead, her lawyer, Michael Crowley, sent the not guilty pleas to the Vista courthouse by fax.

Her next court appearance is scheduled for March 3.

In a written statement distributed through her attorney, Taylor said her actions on the day of her arrest had little to do with time constraints. She said her child's safety was her primary concern.

"Everything I did was toward getting my child to a place of security, and driven by the reasonable conviction that he would be at risk if I did not," Taylor wrote.

She did not explain why she felt her son was potentially at risk.

However, CHP Officer Sam Shockley had a different version of the incident for a reporter last week. It started when he spotted a Volvo station wagon speeding on San Dieguito Road, just east of El Apajo near Fairbanks Ranch.

He pulled the driver over to issue a ticket, but the driver told him she wouldn't stay, grabbed his citation book and sped off. She then ran several stop signs as she headed toward the elementary school, authorities said.

The driver threw the officer's citation book out of the car when she stopped for a red light at nearby Rancho Diegueno Road. Once they arrived at the school, the woman told the officer her husband had yelled at her that morning to get the child to school on time, Shockley said.

Taylor's 5-year-old son, who was seated in a booster chair, was allowed to go to class.

Prosecutors charged Taylor with misdemeanor child endangerment, rather than a felony, because they believe she did not place her son "under circumstances likely to cause great bodily injury or death."

"The facts were not sufficient in this case to get us into that higher level," Gregg said in an interview.

Some charges, such as evading an officer, can be filed as either a felony or a misdemeanor given the facts of the case.

"It's called a wobbler," Gregg explained. He added that he took Taylor's lack of a criminal record into account before he made his decision.

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<b>Abstract</b> (Document Summary)
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