



CITY OF CORNELIUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

Mother Abandons Children to Obtain a New Tattoo

September 9, 2017 – Mother leaves young children unattended at a city park while she acquired a new tattoo for herself. She was arrested and charged with several crimes.

On Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 5:36 p.m., Washington County Sheriff's Office Deputies serving the City of Cornelius responded to a 911 call at Harleman Park. Sheriff's Deputies were told a family found two children unattended in a public bathroom in the park.

Sheriff's Deputies arrived and found two children ages three and eight years-old unsupervised. The children were reportedly dropped off at the park by their mother, 28 year-old, Ana Lara from Hillsboro (photo inset), while she went to a local tattoo parlor. The children were frightened when it began to rain and hid in the park bathroom. The children were discovered by a family who was using the bathroom. They called Sheriff's Deputies to help the children.

At 6:00 p.m., Ana Lara returned to the park to pick her children up. Sheriff's Deputies believe Ms. Lara left her children unattended for at least an hour so she could obtain a new tattoo.

Ana Lisa Lara was arrested and lodged in the Washington County Jail. She was charged with two counts each of Criminal Mistreatment in the first degree, Recklessly Endangering another Person and Child Neglect in the second degree. She is held on \$10,000 bail. The children were placed in the care of a family member.

