



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



MICHAEL L. RAMSEY
District Attorney

FRANCISCO R. ZARATE
Chief Deputy District Attorney

RICHARD WEST
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

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Baby Addicted to Mother's Breast Milk

Investigators from the Butte County District Attorney's Drug Endangered Children's Program rescued a 4-month-old infant girl from an addicted mother who was breastfeeding the child while shooting up narcotics. The mother admitted noticing the child would go through withdrawals at the same time she would when she could not get a supply of drugs to inject. The mother and the child's father were arrested for child endangerment and possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

The investigators had been alerted that Sara Jean Weller, 35, and Richard Mark Weller, 36, were injecting Dilaudid in front of their children. A search warrant was obtained for the couple's Chico home last Friday and served by officers along with social workers attached to the DEC program. Besides the 4-month-old infant, investigators and social workers also took into protective custody a 2-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy. Investigators determined that marijuana and smoking and injection devices were readily accessible to the older children.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey expressed horror that the infant had to go through several bouts of withdrawal. "Dilaudid, a synthetic opiate, secretes into breast milk. The thought that this mother and father, aware of their own vicious withdrawal symptoms would put this baby through this pain is truly mind-boggling. Luckily the investigator and social worker team that makes up our DEC program were able to rescue these children."

Both parents were put into Butte County Jail in lieu of \$54,000 bail. Richard posted bail leaving Sara behind. Richard will be arraigned in Butte County Superior Court on June 17 and Sara will be arraigned tomorrow, June 2.