

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Public Information

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Joseph Lombardo, Sheriff

September 3, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Officer Aden OcampoGomez

Mother and Boyfriend Arrested After Body of Missing Child is Found

On September 2, 2018, at approximately 9:00 a.m. patrol officers were dispatched to Sunset Park located at 2601 East Sunset Avenue to investigate a report of a missing 3-year-old child. Arriving officers contacted the mother, later identified as 20-year-old Cassie Smith, who told officers she had taken the child to the park to feed the ducks. Smith took a phone call and turned her back to the child. When she turned back around the child was gone.

Officers established a command post in the area and called in additional resources to assist with the search. LVMPD received assistance during this investigation from Red Rock Search and Rescue, Child Protective Services, Clark County Park Police, National Park Services, and the FBI's Joint Child Abuse Rapid Deployment Team.

While officers were searching the immediate area, other officers went to check the apartment where the child lived. Officers made contact with Smith's boyfriend, 40-year-old Joshua Oxford and Smith's other son who was being supervised by Oxford. CPS took Smith's other son into their custody and transported him to Sunrise Hospital where medical staff discovered signs of physical abuse.

During their extensive investigation, detectives conducted further interviews and located the child that Smith reported missing deceased in a remote area near Lake Mead.

As a result of the investigation, detectives arrested Smith and Oxford. They were both transported to the Clark County Detention Center where they currently face one count of child abuse or neglect. Murder charges are currently pending the cause and manner of death which will be provided after autopsy.

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A booking photo of Smith accompanies this release. Oxford's photo will be released when it becomes available.

The identity of the victim, as well as the cause and manner of death, will be released by the Clark County Coroner's Office.

This is an ongoing investigation. Anyone with any information about this incident is urged to contact the LVMPD Homicide Section by phone at 702-828-3521, or by email at homicide@lvmpd.com. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 702-385-5555, or on the internet at www.crimestoppersofnv.com. Tips leading directly to an arrest or indictment processed through Crime Stoppers may be eligible for a cash reward.

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