



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR USING DAUGHTER'S U.S. ID TO SMUGGLE CHILD

TUCSON, Ariz. – Elvira Belen Madrid, 22, a U.S. citizen residing in Nogales, Son., Mex., was sentenced here by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins to 18 months in federal prison. Madrid pleaded guilty on November 30, 2007 to Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Profit.

Madrid admitted that she attempted to smuggle a 6-year old girl into the U.S. through the Nogales, Ariz. Port of Entry by using her own daughter's birth Arizona birth certificate. The inspector became suspicious when the birth certificate said the child was three years old, but the girl appeared much older. The girl then gave the inspector a different name than the one on the birth certificate. The 6-year-old girl was actually a Mexican citizen with no authorization to enter the U.S. Madrid admitted that she did not know the girl and was going to be paid \$200 to smuggle her into the United States. She intended to take her to a statue across the street from a bank in Nogales where she was going to turn her over to the mother and sister of a woman she only knew by first name.

Madrid also admitted she was arrested but not prosecuted a month earlier when on September 8, 2007, she tried to smuggle a boy into the U.S. through the Nogales Port of Entry using her own son's Arizona Birth Certificate. That boy was also a Mexican citizen with no legal authorization to be in the U.S.

The two smuggled children were turned over to the custody of the Mexican Department of Family Services (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. Child Protective Services) and have been reunited with their families.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Douglas, Ariz. The prosecution was handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

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