

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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Contact:

Debbie George

757-514-4106

757-374-1770

Mother Charged with Neglect After Child Found Wandering For the Second Time

SUFFOLK, Va. (March 3, 2010) – Suffolk Police charged a twenty-four year old woman with felony neglect after her four year old child was found wandering the neighborhood for the second time. Police advise Jessica Jane Cerise, of the 200 block of Teal Court, was arrested yesterday after a February 20th incident in which her son was found by neighbors on Widgeon Court. At the time the child was found, he was wearing only a t-shirt and shorts. The reporting officer indicated that outside, mid-day temperatures were around 40 degrees.

Officers were able to locate the child's residence and when they were able to get Cerise to the door, she indicated that she was sleeping and was unaware that the child was missing.

Responding officers learned that the same child was found wandering in September of 2009. In that incident he was wearing only a diaper. There were no charges placed in the September incident, however; it was reported to Social Services.

In addition to the criminal investigation, the Department of Social Services is investigating this incident. The child has been placed with a relative.

Cerise was taken to Western Tidewater Regional Jail. She was released on a \$2,500 bond yesterday.

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