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Kidnapped Dickson child found in Mexico



Amber Ibarra of Dickson holds her 3-year-old son, Dylan, after he was brought back home from Mexico after being kidnapped by his father July 22 last year. Dylan was just returned Saturday after a yearlong search by his mother, Mexican authorities and the American Association For Lost Children.

TERI BURTON/THE HERALD

BY TERI BURTON
THE DICKSON HERALD

A kidnapped Dickson toddler is back home with his mother after being held by his father and relatives in Mexico for more than a year, Dickson police confirmed.

Dylan Ibarra, age 3, was found through the day-and-night persistence of his mother, Amber Ibarra of Dickson, with assistance from the American Association For Lost Children and Mexican authorities.

Amber Ibarra said she brought her son home Saturday after searching on the Internet – and finding where he lived – for over a year.

She said she had video of her husband, Irving, and his brother driving around the Mexican town (prior to the kidnapping) where he took the boy and was able to identify the house through the video.

Amber Ibarra has never been to the Mexican town.

Ibarra said she contacted local

police after her son went missing July last year. But she was still married to Irving and there was nothing on paper regarding custody of the child. Dickson police said there was nothing they could do – not even issue an Amber alert.

According to Dickson Detective John Farmer, the mother won sole custody in Juvenile Court.

That's when the father took the boy and fled.

Mom keeps looking

Later Ibarra contacted the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children.

"They put him on the missing childrens list and put posters at local Wal-Marts. But they were only up for one week and then they changed it to other children," she said.

This past April Ibarra contacted the AAFLC, she said.

"They were actually willing to go get my child," Ibarra said.

Ibarra said the agency operates strictly on donations so "it was re-

ally hard."

Meanwhile, an FBI felony warrant was issued for Irving Ibarra for international kidnapping and interference with child custody kidnapping in the United States.

Once located by Amber Ibarra's dogged pursuit and the AAFLC investigation, the next step was to get him back. It took a carefully constructed plan.

"They organized everything, scheduled everything. They went way beyond the police and handled everything. They actually physically go. They are the only charity in this nation that does not charge the parents to go get the child," she said.

She said association founder Mark Miller telephoned her every day and "he prayed with me on the phone. He was very supportive."

Amber Ibarra and members of the association went to Ciudad Mante, Tamaulipas, Mexico where the police assisted them.

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CHILD FOUND

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"We left last Tuesday at night and flew into Mexico City, then to another town, then took a vehicle for several hours to get to Ciudad Mante," she said.

During the flight to Mexico City they met a man who worked for the Mexican government and he gave them some contacts and set them up with a lawyer from the Mexican Supreme Court, Ibarra said.

After several more hours of driving into small towns and getting assistance from various police in Mexico they arrived in Nuevo Morelos where her husband and family lived.

But there was no sign of the husband or the child.

More searching done

The AAFLC, in a press re-

lease issued Tuesday, Sept. 16, said the rest of the family hadn't seen Irving or the child. The police searched the house and discovered Irving had fled with the child.

Police and family members couldn't find them in a search of the town, either.

Warrants were drawn up for the arrest of the paternal grandparents for aiding in the hiding of a kidnapped child and against Irving.

Ibarra said she, the police and the AAFLC members went to see the grandparents on Sept. 11 and negotiated all day with Irving and the grandparents.

"We told the family this is how it's going to be; either tell us where the child is, we make peace with this, nobody goes to jail and no charges. Or, if you don't give us the child you go to jail, all your children get taken away and you all go to jail," Ibarra said.

She said the family asked for some time to look for Dylan.

It took longer than expected, but the family members arrived with Dylan.

"They called me over and said okay, he's here, calm down. My heart was racing, the American Association of Lost Children was right there with me and I saw my son for the first time," Ibarra said.

She said Dylan was sitting on his grandmother's lap.

"I picked him up, I was crying, he was scared and I gave him his toys that he used to play with. He relaxed and knew who I was, I asked him and he said, 'you're my mommy.'"

Ibarra and her son arrived in Nashville at 2 p.m. Saturday.

"All our family and friends were waiting for us at the airport," she said. "I just want to say thanks to the American Association for Lost Children because I got my son back."

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