

Baby allegedly left alone in car at Farmington casino

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Clint R. Vanepps, 25, Greece

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By Staff reports

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Greece man was charged with endangering the welfare of a child after allegedly leaving his 7-month-old baby alone in a car in frigid conditions while he was gambling.

Clint R. Vanepps, 25, of Latta Road, Greece, was charged around 4:30 p.m. on Monday at Finger Lakes Gaming Casino by Ontario County sheriff's deputies after allegedly leaving the child in an unattended vehicle for nearly an hour.

Deputies say another casino patron heard the child crying and contacted security, who gained access to the vehicle and removed the baby.

Lt. Bill Gallagher said the child wasn't dressed very warmly, and appeared to have been left in the car intentionally. At the time, the temperature was 15 degrees, with a wind chill factor of 5 degrees, and the car was not running. The car seat was covered with a light blanket, in what looked like an attempt to hide the baby from view, deputies said.

"A day like yesterday afternoon, it could've been pretty serious to the child out in the cold like that with only a blanket on him," Gallagher said.

Gallagher said the baby was checked over by emergency medical service personnel at the scene and appeared to be healthy. He was picked up by his mother and grandmother, Gallagher said.

"Other than being cold, he apparently was fine," he said.

After the child was brought in from the cold, Vanepps was located inside the casino by security and was arraigned in Farmington Town Court by Justice John Gligora, who sent him to the Ontario County Jail on \$10,000 cash or \$20,000 bail bond.

The case was referred to the county's child protective services to determine if any other recourse is necessary, Gallagher said.

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