



OFFICE OF THE  
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**CHRISTOPHER EXLEY SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN STATE PRISON FOR ABANDONING  
HIS SON IN WIN-RIVER PARKING LOT**  
**November 20, 2009**

Yesterday, following a sentencing hearing, Christopher Craig Exley was sentenced to 4 years in State Prison for leaving his 15 month old son alone in his truck while Mr. Exley gambled inside the Win-River Casino. Judge James Ruggiero sentenced Mr. Exley for Abusing or endangering the health of a child in violation of California Penal code 273a(a).

On August 4, 2009 at approximately 3:49 PM, an employee of Win River Casino contacted SHASCOM to report an apparently abandoned child crying inside of a pickup truck. Win River Security removed the child from the vehicle and treated the child for any heat related injuries. The outside temperature was 92 degrees. The truck was parked in an area with no shade. Win River Security discovered the father was gambling in the casino.

While Deputy Steven Grashoff was investigating the case, Mr. Exley approached Exley's vehicle and identified himself. While speaking with the deputy, he continued to act as if nothing was wrong while still looking inside the cab of the truck. When Deputy Grashoff asked Mr. Exley where his child was, he stated he did not know. He told the deputy he does not get time for himself and wanted to gamble five dollars and have a drink. He admitted to leaving the child in the truck and that it was not a 'good idea'.

Win-River security personnel documented Mr. Exley's arrival at the casino at 3:05 pm and the child was removed from the truck at 3:49 pm. Mr. Exley returned to the truck at 3:57 pm. The incident was reported to CFS who took custody of the child.

Deputy Steve Grashoff of the County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator on the case.. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Eric Anderson. For questions, contact District Attorney Jerry Benito at 245-6310.