



Maricopa County Attorney

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News Release

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Child Abuse Charges filed against Goodyear Couple *Suspects accused of severely beating their four-year-old daughter*

County Attorney Andrew Thomas announced today that Raul and Tricia Varela have been indicted for child abuse for allegedly severely beating their four-year-old daughter.

According to the probable cause statement from the Goodyear Police, the child was brought to a west valley emergency room for abdominal pain on April 28, 2009. She was in critical condition and transferred to Maricopa County Medical Center. There were bruises all over her body. On June 24, 2009 a grand jury indicted the suspects.

Raul Varela (DOB 12/4/68) is accused of two counts of child abuse. Tricia Varela (DOB 10/15/69) is accused of four counts of child abuse. On June 26, 2009 both suspects were arrested by Goodyear Police. Deputy County Attorney Stephanie Low is prosecuting

Thomas stated, "As the father of four children, I believe child abuse in any form cannot be tolerated. These defendants will be fully prosecuted."

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