



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Oroville Father Pleads Guilty to Felony Child Abuse After Cocaine-Fueled Public Incident

An Oroville man today pleaded guilty to a felony count of child endangerment stemming from a June 4, 2025 incident in which he was seen swinging his one-year-old baby boy around and dropping him in the middle of a public roadway.

Oscar Bonilla, 35, admitted the endangerment charge in Butte County Superior Court for placing his child in extreme danger during a cocaine-fueled episode near the intersection of Myers and Greenville Streets in south Oroville.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said multiple 911 calls were received from the public that afternoon reporting a man behaving erratically, walking into traffic while carrying a baby, swinging the child by the arms, and ultimately dropping the child in the street.

While still on the phone with 911 dispatch, one witness saw Bonilla drop the child and flee. That witness then ran into the roadway and safely retrieved the crying child. Another witness reported that Bonilla was holding a knife and making slashing motions while still in possession of the child. That witness used her vehicle to block Bonilla from re-approaching the child after the other witness rescued the child.

Oroville Police officers quickly located Bonilla minutes later. He was found in possession of a folding knife and appeared agitated and under the influence of narcotics. Bonilla admitted to normally consuming a large amount of cocaine daily, but on this day, he consumed a “large bag” of cocaine. Bonilla was taken to the hospital where he remained for two days as he was detoxed from the cocaine overdose and then taken to the Butte County Jail.

The one-year-old boy, wearing only a pull-up and t-shirt at the time, suffered a minor laceration above the eyebrow and road rash on the elbow, but was visibly distressed. He was transported to Oroville Hospital for evaluation and treatment and was reported to be doing well.

Oroville police detectives learned Bonilla had taken the child without the mother’s consent after she told him she was ending their relationship due to his escalating drug abuse. She later provided police with video footage from the previous day showing Bonilla under the influence of cocaine and in possession of the same knife while near the child.

Bonilla, a Honduran national, acknowledged during his plea in court today that he may face

deportation and other potential immigration consequences as a result of his conviction.

At today's hearing, the judge revoked Bonilla's prior bail of \$50,000 and ordered him held without bail pending his sentencing.

Ramsey praised the actions of community members and first responders, stating: "This child was in imminent danger, and thanks to the bravery of multiple community members and the quick actions of the Oroville Police Department, a tragedy was averted. This office will always pursue justice in cases where innocent children are placed in harm's way."

The child is now safe with his mother. A protective order has been issued protecting the mother, the child, and a sibling.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 16, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Bonilla faces up to six years in state prison.

