

ACA News

12 July 2017 The Standard

Twins, 3, left home alone



A mother of three-year-old twin girls faces up to 10 years in prison for leaving her daughters alone and locked in a public estate flat while she spent a night out with friends.

The 31-year-old woman, wearing a white short skirt, surrendered to police more than 12 hours after the girls were rescued from the flat at Ma Tau Wai Estate.

Neighbors called police at around 3am yesterday after they heard the twins crying and realized the girls were locked inside the flat without their parents.

Firefighters were then called to break into the flat to reach the twins, who were taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Yau Ma Tei for medical assessments.

The mother did not return until around 3pm and found a note left by officers at the door. She turned herself in at the police station in Kowloon City and was arrested for ill-treating or neglecting a child or a young person who was in her care.

She is now being detained for investigation, and if charged and found guilty of abuse could herself be locked up for 10 years

Neighbors said the family moved in around two years ago but they rarely saw the mother.

According to a report by NGO Against Child Abuse, there were 253 cases in 2015 and 2016, with 15 percent involving neglect.

Its director, Jessica Ho Oi-chu, said parents should under no circumstances leave their children alone at home. And the mother in this latest incident did not appear to realize how dangerous a situation it was.

Ho added she understands many parents in Hong Kong have to work, but it is not an excuse. She suggested parents should seek help from social centers in the community if there is a long-term need for child care.

Also yesterday, an Indonesian domestic helper was arrested for allegedly abusing her employer's two-month-old baby at a flat in Tuen Mun.

The mother called the police while rushing the infant to the emergency unit of Tuen Mun Hospital on July 2.

It was found the infant had suffered bleeding in the brain.

An initial investigation raised a suspicion the 44-year-old helper shook the infant violently during the afternoon of July 2.

She was arrested on suspicion of ill treating or neglecting a child in her care and was being held in custody while the case was investigated.

Reference:

http://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news.php?id=185001&story_id=47385634&con_type=1&d_str=20170712&sid=4