

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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News Release: Yet Another Tragedy as Child Dies in DUI Crash, Mother Arrested

TORRANCE, CA (July 18, 2016) – A seven-year-old girl is dead, and her three brothers in critical condition after the vehicle in which they were traveling crashed into a house in South L.A. about 5:45 pm Sunday. The children’s mother was arrested on suspicion of vehicular manslaughter after being found to be intoxicated.

Angelina Lynn Naranjo was killed, and her brothers, aged 6, 4, and 8 months, critically injured after their mother lost control of their vehicle and crashed into a home on the southeast corner of 93rd Street, Los Angeles. None of the children was restrained; an LAFD spokesman described them as being “scattered across the lawn” when firefighter-paramedics arrived. Angelina was declared dead at the scene.

The scenario is all too familiar to Stephanie Tombrello, Executive Director of SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. “Almost 400 kids die on our roads each year in DUI-involved crashes, and many more are injured. Twenty-five percent of the crashes that kill children involve alcohol. Most of these kids aren’t placed at risk by a stranger but by a person responsible for their welfare – often a parent.”

“These children should be enjoying their summer, not lying in a hospital bed and, worse, on a mortuary slab. They deserved to be buckled up properly and protected by those charged with their care – not put at such terrible risk.”

“We are seeing more and more cases of kids placed at risk through their mothers driving drunk or drugged. We urgently need agencies that work with families who are struggling with addiction, and the courts, to take this risk to children more seriously. We ask the media to help us call attention to this growing problem.”

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SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. campaigns to raise awareness of the growing impact of DUI on children, supported by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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