

<http://www.wtae.com/r/25580974/detail.html>

Couple Left 3 Kids In Car While In Casino, Police Say

Pittsburgh Police: 3 Children Left Inside Car In Rivers Casino Garage

PITTSBURGH -- A man and woman were arrested after police said they left three children inside a minivan while the couple went into Rivers Casino during the weekend.

A 10-month-old girl, 3-year-old boy and 10-year-old boy were alone in the vehicle for about 45 minutes on Saturday afternoon while 38-year-old Phayvong Peaungvong-Pak and 54-year-old Lounla Xayathep were inside the North Shore casino, according to a police report.

Investigators said that the couple is from Laos and have a limited understanding of English. Both are residents of New Eagle in Washington County.

A passerby saw the children inside the vehicle in the casino's parking garage and alerted security, police said.

The couple -- who police said are boyfriend and girlfriend and are the primary caregivers of the children -- were charged with three counts of child endangerment and three counts of leaving an unattended child in a vehicle.

The children are now in the care of Children and Youth Services.