

Judge extends 12-year-old's detention after CPD chase

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The 12-year-old girl who led a high-speed police chase in Conroe last week faced the judge on Tuesday.

Prosecutors showed the judge a condensed video of the girl allegedly speeding in her grandmother's car in excess of 100 mph west on Texas 105 for 10 miles with her 7-year-old sister. "This is the first time the judge has seen or heard anything on the case," said County Attorney J D Lambright, who handles juvenile cases. "I think he was just as astounded as anybody else that somebody wasn't killed or seriously injured."

Given the nature of the offense, Lambright said the prosecutors asked the judge to keep the girl in detention. After reviewing the video and talking with the girl, Lambright said the County Court at Law 1 judge agreed and detained the juvenile again. She will remain in detention for another 10 business days to 14 calendar days until the next detention hearing.

The girl, unnamed due to her age, is currently facing one theft charge of the motor vehicle, however agency reports are pending and the prosecution may bring different charges to the table.

Lambright said a more fitting charge at this point is an unauthorized use of a motor vehicle as theft usually does not intend to return the property. "I'm assuming based on what I know she wasn't going to keep her grandma's car forever," he said. "So it's like you are taking someone's car without permission. That is certainly a very likely charge as well as the evading arrest."

Deadly conduct with a motor vehicle will also be considered for the girl who allegedly caused at least two accidents and numerous traffic violations, Lambright said. "There are probably several other charges that we will be bringing and I would anticipate by the time we are back in court again we will probably have that petition prepared," he said.

Lambright said the girl had little reaction in court. "I think she kind of said 'I'm sorry' a couple of times; that was about it," he said. "I didn't see many outward reaction at all. She is a very small — what you expect of a 12-year-old. People wonder how she could reach the pedals and see over the steering wheel."