

## Judge extends 12-year-old's detention stay

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Lambright

The 12-year-old girl who took her grandmother's car on a high-speed-police chase in June is staying in detention for now. In her fourth detention hearing Thursday, County Court at Law No. 1 Judge Dennis Watson ordered an extension for the girl who returned last week after violating a court order, according to Montgomery County Attorney J D Lambright.

"The real issue is not the juvenile's behavior in detention," said Lambright about the girl who had no prior criminal history. "The court doesn't want a repeat of what happened before (referring to her violating the court order). The goal is to determine what it is that is driving this behavior." The uncle reported the violation, as required by the court, nearly a week after Watson decided to release the juvenile into his custody under specific conditions set during a July 19 hearing, Lambright said.

While living with her paternal uncle, the girl could not operate a motorized vehicle, including riding lawn mowers and boats, and the judge prohibited her from breaking any laws, no matter how minor, Lambright said. The conditions set forth by the judge also required 24-hour supervision, frequent drug tests, and she must obey her uncle's rules, according to the girl's court appointed attorney Chris Allen on July 19.

Moving forward, the girl will face the judge again for her fifth detention hearing within the next two weeks. Her anticipated court date is also expected to be this month when she will answer to her charges.

According to the Conroe Police Department, the girl was arrested June 30 by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office for theft of property over \$30,000, which is a third-degree felony after she allegedly led officers on a 10-minute high speed chase through the county. In the car with the girl was her 7-year-old sister. Neither girl was injured in the incident.

The prosecution has since filed a petition for felony unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, felony evading arrest and dangerous conduct due to the severity of the crime and to discourage others from doing the same.