

## 12-year-old Montgomery County chase suspect released again

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A Montgomery County judge again released a 12-year-old Montgomery County girl accused of leading police on a high-speed chase last June. She was in juvenile detention until Tuesday for violating terms of her original release last month, according to officials.

Authorities arrested her June 30 after she allegedly drove off in her grandmother's car from East Montgomery County with her 7-year-old sister in the vehicle. The juvenile reportedly reached a speed of 111 mph and damaged at least two vehicles while weaving in and out of traffic and driving on the wrong side of the road - all in a 10-minute pursuit from Conroe down Texas 105 West toward Montgomery. Neither girl was hurt in the chase.

After spending Fourth of July weekend in juvenile detention, the girl had her first hearing, which included a dash-cam video of the chase. The prosecution recommended an extended stay during the first hearing July 5, which the judge ordered. County Court-at-Law No. 1 Judge Dennis Watson decided to release the juvenile to her paternal uncle under specific conditions July 19.

While living with her uncle, the girl was forbidden from operating a motorized vehicle, including riding lawn mowers and boats; and the judge prohibited her from breaking any laws, no matter how minor. The conditions set forth by the judge also required 24-hour supervision, frequent drug tests and obeying her uncle's rules, according to the girl's court-appointed attorney Chris Allen.

However, the girl violated the court order and landed back in detention, according to County Attorney J D Lambright. "She did not follow court orders," Lambright said. "The caregivers did follow court orders and turned her in." Lambright, who was not in court Tuesday for the girl's release, said the terms were likely the same as the first time. He did not know what family member took custody of her.

According to the Conroe Police Department, the girl originally was arrested by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office for theft of property over \$30,000, which is a third-degree felony. 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.

The prosecution considered her age, the speed of the chase, the fact that she had her sister, who has also been removed from the home due to alleged substance abuse, and the time of day into consideration.