

CANTON, MS (Mississippi News Now) -

Investigators searching for four missing children out of Canton, are now charging the parents with kidnapping.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation has issued an Endangered/Missing Children Alert for four children.

Police believe their step-father and mother, 24-year-old Fernando Coria-Pelay and 28-year-old Sonia Elisabeth Coronado, left with the children.

They were last seen on September 7th at their home at 940 Oliver street.

Police says that Pelayo was recently indicted on two counts of child abuse and the mother, Coronado, with neglect charges.

Madison county District Attorney Michael Guest says,

"The prosecutor in my office who handles these cases made the note, these are the worst physical abuse marks she's ever seen on a child," said Madison County District Attorney Michael Guest. "So these children were severely beaten at the hands of Mr. Pelayo not to the point where they required hospitalization, but well and beyond the type of necessary discipline for a 5-6 year old."

The children are identified as:

- Five-year-old Jackelyn Belinda Gomez-Coronada, she is described as a Hispanic female with long black hair and black eyes.
- One-year-old Mendy Coria-Coronado, who is described as a Hispanic female with short black hair and black eyes.
- Two-year-old Evelin Fernanda Coria-Coronado, who is described as a Hispanic female with long black hair and black eyes and
- Six-year-old Kimberly Elizabeth Gomez-Coronado who is described as a Hispanic female with long black hair and black eyes.

The case was to go to trial next month.

Sonia Coronado had agreed to testify against her husband.

"Our main concern is finding out where these four children are and they just happen to be four females," said Canton Assistant Police chief Juan Cloy. "Although we do want the father and mother in custody, we really need to find out where these children are."

Investigators say the parents did not have full custody of the kids. DHS had granted temporary custody to the mother, and a no contact order was in place to keep Fernando Pelayo away.

If anyone has information regarding the whereabouts of these children or their parents, contact Investigator Eilarene Walker with the Canton Police Department at 601-859-2121

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi authorities were searching Thursday for four young girls last seen with their mother and stepfather who are charged with mistreating the children.

The girls had been put into state protective custody, but Canton Assistant Police Chief Juan Cloy said investigators believe the mother and stepfather took them after the couple got out of jail on bond. The family was last seen Sept. 7 at a home in Canton.

"We have every reason to believe the children are in danger," Cloy told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

He said law enforcement officers believe the children might face harm from their stepfather, Fernando Coria-Pelay, 24, who was charged with felony child abuse in May.

"We want to get him away from the children," Cloy said of the stepfather.

Cloy said the girls' mother, Sonia Elisabeth Coronado, 28, was charged with felony child neglect.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation on Sept. 12 issued a missing and endangered child alert for Kimberly Elizabeth Gomez-Coronado, 6; Jackelyn Belinda Gomez-Coronado, 5; Evelin Fernanda Coria-Coronado, 2; and Mendy Coria-Coronado, 1.

Cloy said Canton police have issued kidnapping warrants for Coria-Pelay and Coronado.

He would not say whether investigators believe the family is still in Mississippi. He said the girls were born in the United States, their mother is from Guatemala and the stepfather is from Mexico. He said the location of the children's biological father was not immediately available.

Canton police are working with state and federal investigators and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children on the case, Cloy said
Sunherald.com

A Canton mother may have chosen husband over well-being of her four children, authorities say.

A warrant has been issued for Sonia Elisabeth Coronado, 28, and her 24-year-old husband Fernando Coria-Pelay. The two are suspected of fleeing with Coronado's four children from a

previous relationship. Coria-Pelay is the children's step-father and he was under a court order to have no-contact with the children.

Canton Assistant Police Chief Juan Cloy has said Coria-Pelay is a suspect in child abuse case involving the children.

The Mississippi Department of Human Service had custody of the children. Cloy said it is his understanding the children were removed from Coronado's custody, but had been returned to her on a trial basis. DHS monitored the home, but the children were actually living in the home with Coronado when they went missing. The last time someone saw the children was Sept. 7. DHS spokeswoman Julia Bryan said the court had ordered for the children on a trial basis to be home with the mother. Proper protocol during this time is for a worker to physically visit with a family, in most situations, twice a month, or more often if the situation warrants closer oversight. In the case of fear for the safety of children or working with law enforcement to issue a Missing Person report, local law enforcement and local Youth Courts are immediately alerted as soon as there is evidence to indicate a problem in which their assistance is needed.

"Our main concern is the safety of the children," Cloy said today
Coria-Pelay has apparently been living in Canton since 2008. Cloy said he was unsure how long Coronado had been in Canton. He said the children's biological father is also living in Canton.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigations issued a missing children alert for the four children. Anyone with information about the children should call Canton PD at (601) 859-2121.
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