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NEWS

McPHERSON - What began as an Amber Alert for a 6-week-old girl who was allegedly taken from her mother's home ended Tuesday when the baby was found alive, wrapped in a blanket inside a garbage Dumpster.

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The girl appeared to be in good health after a police officer found her wrapped in a blanket and placed "carefully" on top of some sealed trash bags. The child was taken to McPherson Memorial Hospital.

The child's 18-year-old mother was taken into protective custody as officials investigate. Her name won't be released unless charges are filed, officials said.

McPherson Police Chief Dennis Shaw said the mother could possibly face aggravated endangerment charges.

In the past, police have been called for welfare checks at the home in the 500 block of North Chestnut, but the child always appeared to be OK.

Someone either believed the mother wasn't caring for her child properly or they were harassing her by making false reports, Shaw said.

The girl's mother reported her missing after 10 a.m. Tuesday. The initial suspect was the child's grandmother, who allegedly crawled through the bathroom window while the mother was taking a shower. However, when the pickup and grandmother were found near Salina, the Kansas Highway Patrol did not find the baby.

"The engine was still cold and there was no way for that person to get back to that part of the country in time," Shaw said.

Officials then began to search locally for the child.

A neighbor reported seeing the mother walking with the child in a stroller a short time before the abduction was reported. Police checked around the home and found the child in a trash bin two blocks from the house.

"We're just very glad the baby was found OK and safe, and there didn't appear to be any problems," Shaw said.