

## 2 men charged with child endangerment at Des Plaines casino



Tony Mirato, left, and Thomas Mirato, right, were charged with child endangerment in Des Plaines. (Courtesy of Des Plaines Police Department.)

**By Bob Chiarito,**  
Special to the Tribune

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**T**wo Norridge men have been charged with child endangerment after allegedly leaving two children in a car at Rivers Casino in Des Plaines last Thursday while they went inside to claim a prize, according to Des Plaines police authorities.

Thomas Mirato, 71, drove to the Rivers Casino with his 44-year-old nephew, Tony Mirato, and his two grandchildren - a 10-year-old and an infant - on July 31, police said.

The two Mirato men, both of Norridge, went inside to pick up a prize, according to Des Plaines Deputy Police Chief Nick Treantafeles, leaving the children in the car with the windows down, the keys in the ignition and the hazard lights on.

Thomas Mirato is also the guardian of the two children, Treantafeles said.

Des Plaines police were notified by casino security after the children were observed unattended in the car at about 12:10 p.m., he said. Once on the scene, police waited for the men to return to their car.

Thomas and Tony Mirato didn't return to the car until 12:50 p.m., Treantafeles said.

"They came out and saw us and asked what was going on. They said they were inside for ten minutes to claim a prize and we said 'no, you were gone 40 minutes, you're under arrest,'" Treantafeles said.

He added that the children appeared to be fine and were not complaining about anything.

Both the men and the children were transported to the Des Plaines Police Department. The children were then turned over to the girlfriend of Thomas Mirato, Treantafeles said.

Shortly thereafter, Thomas and Tony Mirato were released on bond and are scheduled to appear at the Skokie Courthouse on Sept. 11, Treantafeles said.

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