

2 Year Old Found Wandering, Clutching His Mom's Suicide Note **News On The Web**

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(nydailynews.com) - An 18-year-old mother was arrested in January after her 2-year-old son was found wandering outside her Alabama home while clutching a suicide note written by his mother.



In a story that unfolded in January, a frantic search for the boy's mother ended in woods near the family's home where Katie Renea Halbert was arrested for child endangerment, according to the Etowah County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's department reported that Halbert went missing sometime on a Saturday and was possibly in an "altered state of mind."

Authorities said it was a family member who found her son outside her Ivalee home and in a panic called 911.

Halbert was located several hours later unharmed.

Child endangerment is a misdemeanor offense but Etowah County Sheriff Todd Entrekin is hoping lawmakers will make it a felony.

"We've got to address this problem. Again, several cases this year in Etowah County, where someone should've been charged with a felony, other than just a misdemeanor dealing with a child's safety,"

Halbert's child was placed in the custody of the county Department of Human Resources.

She was held on \$1,000 property bond.