

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: August 6, 2008

ILLEGAL ALIEN FAMILY FACING BREAK UP AS 12-YEAR-OLD SON ARRESTED FOR GUN POSSESSION AT VALLEY SCHOOL

(Phoenix, AZ) According to Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, the situation is a heartbreaking example of the failed immigration policies of the federal government.

"I know I'm tough on fighting illegal immigration but I still have a heart," says Sheriff Arpaio.

Today, a 12-year-old boy was taken into custody by Sheriff's deputies after bringing a 9mm handgun and ammunition to school. That boy is from an illegal alien family and as a result of his actions, his family may now be split apart.

A teacher at the Queen Creek Middle School, 20435 South Ellsworth Road, saw the gun and notified the Sheriff's Office.

When the boy was taken into custody, he told deputies he brought the gun to school to threaten another student who bullies him.

The boy is expected to be transferred to a juvenile detention facility and will face at least one felony charge.

The 12 year old is one of four children belonging to parents who, Sheriff deputies have determined, are in the country illegally. While this boy is apparently a legal resident of the U.S. having been born here, one other sibling, a 10-year-old boy, is an illegal immigrant.

Arpaio says the incident may force the breakup of the family. The 10-year-old, along with his parents, now face deportation, says the Sheriff.

"I have no choice but to enforce the law," Arpaio says. "Part of the family is here illegally so we are obliged to follow the law by arresting and deporting them. What becomes of the other three children, the youngest of whom is only five years old, is out of my control. But clearly, this situation highlights the problems that come as a result of not confronting and resolving the illegal immigration issue." Arpaio says.

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News Release

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