



- I. **DATE OF PRESS RELEASE:** April 24, 2013
- II. **TYPE OF INCIDENT:** Arrests made in the Day Care/Pre School Closure
- III. **FACTUAL INFORMATION:**

On March 15, 2013, the California Department of Social Services requested the assistance of the Livermore Police Department with the closure of the Universal Preschool LCC, located at 1040 Florence Road in Livermore. Universal Preschool LCC was formally known as The Sunnyside Infant and Preschool. Universal Preschool was closed due to multiple State licensing violations, including swaddling. The concept of swaddling is specific to new born babies. When an infant is swaddled, the new born is wrapped in a snug and comfortable way to reassure them and to help them fall asleep. Swaddling of an infant over the age of 6 months old should only be done at the request of the parent and to comfort the child only.

### **UPDATED INFORMATION:**

On April 19, 2013, LPD Detectives concluded its extensive investigation into the closure of Universal Preschool LCC for multiple child endangerment accusations.

The investigation revealed that two of the daycare facility employees were binding at least seven of the children's upper torso and legs with blankets and other cloth type materials in order to restrict the child's movement during naptimes. The suspects tightly wrapped the victims with blankets and other cloth material, which were secured with knots. The tightly wrapped cloth material restricted the victim's ability to breathe comfortably and move their extremities. In several circumstances, the two suspects placed blankets over the faces of the victims. With the victim's extremities restrained and a blanket over their face, the victims did not have the ability to remove blankets that could have potentially blocked their airway and their ability to breathe. The victims in this case ranged in age from 7 months to 11 months old.

Detectives learned that three of the victims suffered from upper respiratory conditions, which the two suspects were aware of. Having knowledge of the respiratory conditions, the two suspects still tightly bound the victim's upper torso and legs. Tightly binding a child with an upper respiratory condition seriously compromises a child's ability to breathe, which could lead to death.

With the victims bound and blankets placed over their face and head, the two suspects were limited in their ability to properly supervise these victims and identify that they were in distress.

Detectives concluded their investigation and determined that this was not a case of mere swaddling but a case of abuse and neglect where the victims were being restrained. The restraints that were secured by knots and the blankets covering the victim's faces

were such a negligent act that it could have caused great bodily injury and even death.

On April 22, 2013, LPD Detectives presented the case to the District Attorney's Office. The District Attorney charged and issued warrants for each suspect for three counts of 273a(a) PC - Felony Child Neglect and Abuse, and four counts of 273a(a) PC – Misdemeanor Child Neglect and Abuse.

**IV. ARRESTED:**

Nazila Sharaf           DOB: 06/22/1977 (Resides in Dublin, CA)

Lida Sharaf             DOB: 04/15/1980 (Resides in Mt. House, CA)

**VI. CONTACT PERSON FOR THE PRESS ONLY:** P.I.O. Steve Goard  
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