

# Cheektowaga Police Officer Saves Toddler and Overdosing Mother from Hot Car

By **Jim Herr** - September 6, 2018



*Jade Nickel mugshot (Cheektowaga Police)*

A Cheektowaga police officer stumbled upon a woman overdosing and her daughter in a hot car on patrol late Tuesday night when he noticed a parked vehicle that appeared to be running and unoccupied in the parking lot of a closed business.

Cheektowaga Police Officer Christopher Wierzbowski noticed the vehicle around 11:00 pm near Genesee Street and Harlem Road. When he went to check out the suspicious situation a 3-year-old girl jumped on to the seat. He then noticed the driver, Jade Nickel, 28, of St. James Rd, slumped over the center console, with a hypodermic needle sticking out from her arm.

Not only was the temperature outside in the 80's that night. The windows were all rolled up, and the heater in the car was turned on.

**WEB EXTRA: Read about Officer Wierzbowski's description of the rescue experience**

The young girl could not unlock the car doors and Nickel was not waking up by the officer pounding on the car doors. Cheektowaga Police say Officer

Wierzbowski broke the windows to get to the toddler who was covered in sweat and beet red. An AMR ambulance crew treated the young girl for dehydration at the scene.

Nikel woke up as officers were getting ready to administer Narcan to her. Heroin was found in the vehicle. She was taken to ECMC for evaluation.

Nikel is now facing a number of charges, including; Reckless Endangerment, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Possession of a Hypodermic Instrument. She was sent to the Erie County Holding Center after being arraigned in Cheektowaga Town Court on \$1,000 cash bail or \$3,000 bond.

Child Protective Services was notified about the incident and the young girl was released to a family member.

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