

Missing Tacoma kids back in state custody after Amber Alert
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An Amber Alert ended Wednesday night in Tacoma when two children were buckled into a Tacoma police detective's sedan and driven away from their mother for the second time within a week.

"It feels like someone ripped my heart out and is stepping on it," their mother, Tivice Evans, said Wednesday night.

Evans' two children, 1-year-old Zariyah Brown and 3-year-old Deon Brown, were taken from their home six days ago. The state Department of Health and Human Services says the children have been abused. Evans says that's false.

Evans and boyfriend Ahzariyah Yasharahla were on a supervised visit with the children about 11 a.m. Wednesday at a Department of Health and Human Services office on South State Street in Tacoma, and left with the two children. Authorities issued an Amber Alert a few hours later.

An Amber Alert is issued when children are suspected of being abducted.

The alert Wednesday asked the public to look for a gray Nissan Sentra, which was found that afternoon with a relative of the couple behind the wheel. Eventually, police were able to talk to the parents by phone and make arrangements to transfer the children to Child Protective Services.

Tacoma police met the parents at the Kingdom of Yah of Hosts Sanctuary on South 21st and J streets in Tacoma. Family members and friends comforted the mother and boyfriend after the children were driven away. Members of the sanctuary said they plan to help the children return to Evans' custody.

"Our trust is in the good people ... hopefully due process will be done," said Michael Ward-Israel, who runs the sanctuary.

Evans said she lived with the children in Milwaukee and was investigated by Child Protective Services there, but nothing came from it. The abuse allegations in Tacoma are a misunderstanding, she said.

A custody hearing is scheduled for this afternoon. Tacoma police spokesman Mark Fulghum said the investigation was continuing, and no charges had been filed.

The two children spent a few hours at Tacoma police headquarters after being taken Wednesday night and were transferred to CPS custody.

"The bottom line is that everybody's safe and the kids are back in custody," Fulghum said.