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CUSTODY IN JEOPARDY

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SUNGAI PETANI: To her, taking a video of her 3-year-old son inhaling "syabu" with a meth pipe was nothing but a joke to get her husband riled up but the act has backfired on the woman.

The 27-year-old woman from Gurun is now looking at the possibility of losing custody of the child.

The woman had collaborated with her boyfriend to record a 16-second clip which showed her son sitting at the back seat of a car, holding the meth pipe.

In the video, the boy can be seen sitting at the back seat of a car, holding the meth pipe. A stack of RM50 and RM10 notes is strewn on his lap.

His mother's boyfriend can be heard talking to the boy and asking him in Tamil, "Are you already high? Is it nice? If it's nice, you must ask for this next time, okay?"

"Are you feeling high? Good, stay that way," the man is heard saying.

The video was sent to her former in-laws' family and has since gone viral on social media after it was uploaded on Facebook.

It caused an uproar among Neitzens, who urged police to take action and save the boy.

Concerned over the boy's safety, his 53-year-old paternal grandmother lodged a report on Tuesday evening, prompting the police to locate the boy and his mother.

Realising that police were hot on her heels, the woman, who is living with her boyfriend in Taman Gurun Jaya, Gurun, turned herself in at the Kuala Muda police headquarters at 1.30am yesterday.

State Criminal Investigation Department chief Senior Assistant Commissioner Mior Farid Al Athrash Wahid said the woman denied that her son had been forced to take meth as the pipe the boy was holding in the video was empty.

"The woman claimed that she only took the video to hurt the feelings of her husband.

"Both the woman and her son were referred to Sultan Abdul Halim Hospital (SAHH) to have their blood samples taken for analysis. Initial results showed that the child was free of any

traces of drugs," he said in a statement yesterday.

Mior said the woman, who had a record for a drug-related offence and possession of a dangerous weapon, was not remanded as she was eight months' pregnant.

He added that police were looking for the woman's boyfriend, who bolted as soon as the video went viral.

Police have classified the case under Section 3(1)(a) of the Child Act 2001 and have informed the Kuala Muda Welfare Department on the incident.

Meanwhile, the Welfare Department was not amused with the woman's explanation.

Its state director, Md Noor Chik, said the department had initiated a procedure to place the boy under the department's custody under Section 3 of the Child Act, until police investigations on the case was completed.

Md Noor said at present, the boy was still warded at SAHH for further medical check-ups.

He said checks revealed that the woman had been separated from her husband since last year



A screenshot of the video showing the boy sitting at the back seat of a car, holding a meth pipe.

and the couple was in the process of getting a divorce.

Earlier yesterday, NST Online had highlighted how Kedah po-

lice were tracking down the woman, after fears that her son had been forced to consume "syabu", based on the video.