

British couple charged for leaving child

A British couple have vowed to fight charges that they endangered their baby daughter by leaving her alone in their car in New York.

Holidaymakers Yisroel Singer, 26, and his wife Goldie, 25, were arrested last week after leaving their six-month-old daughter Rosie in the car park of a shopping centre.

They had dashed inside to take another of their three young daughters, who recently had a bladder infection, to the toilet.

The couple from Stamford Hill, north London, are free on \$100 bail and have voluntarily surrendered their passports, says their lawyer, Meir Moza.

He said they were the victims of a "cultural misunderstanding", because leaving a child alone in a car in Europe for short periods was acceptable but not in the United States.

After a court appearance on Monday Mr Moza said the couple had been delayed inside the shopping centre because they could not easily find the toilets for their daughter Rachel, 3, who was crying in pain after her recent illness.

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Lawyer Meir Moza

By the time they returned, someone had told police about the lone child.

The couple were arrested and charged with child endangerment, a misdemeanour with a maximum sentence of one year in prison.

Mr Moza said: "They made a decision to leave their six-month-old baby Rosie.

"She was sleeping and safe.

US taboo

"In the United States it's a taboo. You don't leave them for a second because of all the hijacking, car-jacking, kidnapping."

Mr Moza said the Singer family had been staying with relatives in Brooklyn and were due to fly home on New Year's Eve.

The children have remained in the care of their parents.

Both will appear in Nassau County District Court again on 9 January.

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