

Two-year-old daughter and mother go missing, motive unknown, FBI asks for public's assistance

By Kate Feigus

A mother and her 2-year-old daughter, residing in Spring Lake, N.J., are considered to be missing and have been for more than 48 hours. The mother, Kimberly O'Brien, and daughter, Shea O'Brien, were last known to be with two men, who remain unidentified, leaving the convenience store at 114 Admiral Wilson Blvd. in Pennsauken, Nj. It is unknown whether the woman was being threatened or if the disappearance was a planned affair. The FBI asks for the public's assistance with any information on the mother, 35 years old, approximately 5 foot 5 inches, 130 pounds with shoulder length blonde hair, the daughter, 2 years old with blonde hair, or the two men, approximately 6 feet tall, caucasian, with goatees and short hair wearing black hoodies. The car is a white 2007 Lexus SUV with plate number NJ ZLE 145. Each was last seen at 2:45 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 26. The FBI asks the public to please call the FBI's Newark Field Office at 973-555-1234 with any information about the case. Kevin O'Brien, the woman's husband, provided the statement, "To whoever has my wife and my little girl, please let them come home. They are my life."

The events started to unfold when Kimberly O'Brien drove to the convenience store with her daughter after Kevin O'Brien and her had an argument about money. Kevin O'Brien provided this information, as well as that he was unaware that the daughter was with her. After Kimberly O'Brien withdrew \$400 from an automated cash machine, she was approached and escorted by two men to the rear seat of her vehicle next to Shea O'Brien. This occurred at the Heritage Commons Shopping Plaza at 2164 Route 35 in Sea Girt, Nj. The hoods of the sweatshirts on the two men covered their heads. Their hands remained in their pockets until one grabbed her arm and escorted her.

The two men sat in both front seats and they drove south on Route 35. They stopped for gas an hour later and paid for nine gallons with Kimberly O'Brien's credit card. Security cameras presented images of both O'Briens in the rear seats of the vehicle, as well as the two men in the front. At 1:35 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 25, Kimberly O'Brien and one of the men entered the Borgata Casino in Atlantic City. She purchased \$300 in poker chips in cash and used the same payment method when she cashed out. There was no checking of ID cards, however Kimberly O'Brien did show her driver's license. She won \$600 playing blackjack with the man, who kept his hands in his pockets the whole time. This left no way of knowing whether Kimberly O'Brien was being threatened or not. Security camera footage showed that the second man and Shea O'Brien

remained in the car, which was sitting in the casino parking lot, for the entire excursion. The man moved from the front seat to the rear seat, next to Shea O'Brien. From the footage, the man seemed to be playing with the child and was not causing any harm.

The next stop was at a convenience store in a Philadelphia suburb at 2:45 a.m. The same man who accompanied Kimberly O'Brien at the casino went with her into the store. He watched as she pulled a silver handgun from her purse and demanded that the store clerk give her the money in the register. It is unknown whether the gun is licensed. According to her husband, Kimberly O'Brien had no possession of a gun. As heard from the audio of the security footage, she said "Give me the money, or you're dead." It is unclear whether she was being threatened by the man since his hands remained in his pockets and his face remained covered the entire time. The man and woman left the store with \$678.34. The car was last seen leaving the store parking lot and heading towards the river of Philadelphia. There is no record of whether they crossed the bridge.

There is an image of the men approaching Kimberly O'Brien at the initial convenience store, an image of the one of the men and the woman on the casino floor and an image of Kimberly O'Brien pulling out the gun at the convenience store where she was last seen. Kimberly O'Brien did not have an EZ Pass on the car and also did not own any property in South Jersey, which is the last direction that they drove in. Kimberly O'Brien's cell phone has been turned off and she has not used any of her credit cards. The men were not able to be identified by facial recognition and there are no leads on the whereabouts of any of the subjects, who have been missing for about 48 hours.

Tuesday, Oct. 27, FBI Special Agent Jim Smythe held a news conference describing the case of Kimberly O'Brien and her 2-year-old daughter, Shea O'Brien, and asked the public for any information on the whereabouts of the people involved in the disappearance or the car. Smythe said, "In my 25 years in law enforcement, this is one of the more disturbing cases I have encountered, simply because it is such a mystery of what happened to this woman and this child." This case can not be classified as anything other than a missing person's case since there are still many details that are not understood and there is not enough information confirming the motives of the subjects involved. If any information arises regarding this case, it is asked by the FBI to call the FBI Newark Field Office at 973-555-1234.