

Man faces charges in attempt to kidnap 2 infants from day care center

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A 47-year-old man faces charges he pushed and punched his way through a Christiana-area day care center in an attempt to kidnap two infants Friday morning, state police said. John J. Jankowski Jr./Special to The News Journal

A 47-year-old man faces charges he pushed and punched his way through a Christiana-area day care center in an attempt to kidnap two infants Friday morning, state police said.

The infants were successfully taken from Calvin Davis before he left the Happy Kids Academy, at 273 Old Baltimore Pike, police said. He was arrested in the area after a police officer used his stun gun twice and finally a baton to take him down.

"One of the infant victims sustained a minor laceration during the incident," said Sgt. Richard D. Bratz, a state police spokesman.

Investigators said Davis rang the doorbell of the Happy Kids Academy about 7 a.m. and was met by a female worker, whom he pushed in the face as he entered the building. Davis then proceeded to the day care's infant room, where he approached another female worker and started a verbal confrontation.

He then struck her in the face with a closed fist, police said.

Davis then picked up two infants from the floor and walked toward the day care's front doors, holding each child under an arm, Bratz said.

As he did so, the first worker he encountered blocked the door with her body, refusing to let him leave the building, police said. At the same time, another employee approached Davis from behind and was able to pull away one of the infants.

The other infant began to slowly fall from the suspect's other arm, at which time an employee safely grabbed the girl and got away from Davis, police said.



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A 47-year-old man faces charges he pushed and punched his way through Happy Kids Academy in an attempt to kidnap two infants Friday morning, state police said. (Photo: JOHN J. JANKOWSKI JR./SPECIAL TO THE NEWS JOURNAL)

Davis fled the day care, striking a vehicle in the parking lot with a closed fist.

After his description was broadcast, an officer saw Davis walking out from behind a residential building on Queen Circle near Christiana.

As Davis walked toward the officers, he was repeatedly told to show his hands, Bratz said. He refused.

"The officer deployed his Taser in order to stop the suspect from coming closer to him; however, it was ineffective," Bratz said.

As the officer reloaded his stun gun and tried to put some distance between himself and Davis, Bratz said, the officer tripped on a curb and fell backward, injuring himself.

While on the ground, the officer was able to deploy another stun gun round, which struck Davis in the chest. This again was ineffective, police said.

"The Officer switched to the ASP baton and struck at the suspect to gain compliance at which point was able to take him into custody," Bratz said.

The officer was taken from the scene and treated at a local area hospital. Davis, of the Newark-area, also was taken to Christiana Hospital where he has been admitted for evaluation, Bratz said.

Upon his hospital release, Davis is expected to be charged with two counts of first-degree kidnapping, second-degree burglary, assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest felony, two counts of third-degree assault, offensive touching and disorderly conduct.