



12-08-17

## **Pickens County Sheriff's Office Arrest Four Adults in Abduction of Toddler in Liberty**

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at approximately 9:00pm, the Sheriff's Office responded to reports of a physical confrontation and subsequent kidnapping of a small child at 112 Sherri Lane in Liberty.

Upon arrival, deputies discovered that multiple occupants in two separate vehicles had moments earlier been involved in a physical altercation with the mother of a small child along with a neighbor that had attempted to come to the mother's aid.

Witnesses informed the Sheriff's Office that the occupants from both vehicles attacked the mother while she was holding the child outside near a driveway and had forcibly gained possession of the child, placed the toddler into one of the vehicles and fled the scene.

The neighbor who was later determined to be a witness had also left prior to deputies arriving at the location and responded to a local emergency room where he was treated for a large laceration to the arm.

Detectives immediately launched an investigation and subsequent search for the child that was later found to be in the presence of the father at a residence in Pickens County.

The child was unharmed and had been taken to the residence shortly after the abduction occurred.

Sheriff's detectives have conducted an in-depth investigation into the incident throughout the week and as a result, four adults have been arrested and charged with multiple offenses.

Detectives have confirmed that all parties to include the mother are acquaintances or in some cases related to one another.

All four individuals were arrested in Pickens County without incident and booked into the Pickens County Detention Center just after midnight on Thursday, December 7, 2017, for the charge of Kidnapping.

Late yesterday afternoon, additional charges were filed by detectives and all four subjects are still detained within the Detention Center after having been arraigned by a Pickens County Magistrate earlier this morning.

The child was taken into Emergency Protective Custody by the Sheriff's Office on the night of the incident and has been turned over to the Department of Social Services where the child remains pending an investigation by DSS.

## Arrested

- **Stephanie Lynn Hopkins (39 yoa):**

<u>Charge:</u>	<u>Warrant:</u>	<u>Bond:</u>	<u>Arrest Date:</u>
Kidnapping	2017A3910101405	\$30,000.00	12-06-17
Conspiracy to Kidnapping	2017A3910101441	\$10,000.00	12-07-17
Assault & Battery 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	2017A3910101439	\$10,000.00	12-07-17
Assault & Battery 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	2017A3910101442	\$10,000.00	12-07-17

**\*Paternal grandmother to the abducted child**

- **Steven Keith Trotter (37 yoa):**

<u>Charge:</u>	<u>Warrant:</u>	<u>Bond:</u>	<u>Arrest Date:</u>
Kidnapping	2017A3910101404	\$30,000.00	12-06-17
Conspiracy to Kidnapping	2017A3910101440	\$10,000.00	12-07-17
Assault & Battery 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	2017A3910101438	\$10,000.00	12-07-17

**\*Boyfriend of the above listed Stephanie Lynn Hopkins**

- **Ethan Chantz Esuary (20 yoa):**

<u>Charge:</u>	<u>Warrant:</u>	<u>Bond:</u>	<u>Arrest Date:</u>
Kidnapping	2017A3910101407	\$30,000.00	12-06-17
Assault & Battery 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	2017A3910101437	\$10,000.00	12-07-17

**\*Son to Bridget Renee Esuary listed below and friend of Stephanie Hopkins**

- **Bridget Renee Esuary (40 yoa):**

<u>Charge:</u>	<u>Warrant:</u>	<u>Bond:</u>	<u>Arrest Date:</u>
Kidnapping	2017A3910101408	\$30,000.00	12-06-17
Assault & Battery 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	2017A3910101435	\$10,000.00	12-07-17

**\*Mother of Ethan Chantz Esuary listed above and friend to Stephanie Hopkins**

The Sheriff's Office does not anticipate any additional arrests in this case absent the discovery of new information.

Copies of the Arrest Warrants along with the mug shots have been attached to this Media Release.

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