



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Fred Newman

MEDIA RELEASE

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**For More Information:
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Washington County, Virginia Sheriff's Office
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The theft of a motor vehicle, abduction of a 9 year old child, and subsequent pursuit through three jurisdictions has lead to the arrest of a nursing home patient facing multiple charges. According to Washington County Sheriff Fred Newman, the incident began at approximately 10:25 am Sunday morning when an individual, picking up a nursing home patient at the Greendale Home for the Aged, 18180 Rich Valley Road, Abingdon, VA, to take to church, left the vehicle momentarily unattended with his son inside. Another nursing home patient then stole the vehicle.

Law enforcement authorities from the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Abingdon Police Department and Virginia State Police were notified of the incident. A BOLO (be on the lookout) was given out and Sgt. Charley Overbay, with the Abingdon Police Department, spotted the vehicle on West Main Street shortly after the young boy had been dropped off by the driver.

Sgt. Overbay gave pursuit and the vehicle entered I-81 southbound at Exit 14. Units from the Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police joined in the pursuit, which reached speeds of 100 miles per hour. Attempts to conduct a "rolling road block" proved unsuccessful. The vehicle crossed into Tennessee where Tennessee Highway Patrol units and Sullivan County Sheriff's Office deputies took up the pursuit. Officers from the Washington County Tennessee Sheriff's Office and Kingsport Police Department also assisted in the incident. The vehicle was finally stopped in Tennessee by law enforcement authorities.

Steven K. Thornburg, age 47, with an address of 15 Clear Creek Road, Chuckey, Tennessee, was arrested at the location of the stop. He has been charged with grand larceny,

abduction, and eluding law enforcement authorities. Additional charges will be placed in Tennessee as a result of the incident.

The accused was taken to the Bristol Regional Medical for observation. He is being held in the Sullivan County Jail awaiting extradition back to Virginia.