



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Fred Newman

MEDIA RELEASE

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For More Information:

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A domestic assault call between a boyfriend/girlfriend and the subsequent abduction of three small children has resulted in felony and misdemeanor charges being lodged against a Russell County man.

According to Washington County Sheriff Fred Newman, at approximately 8:10pm, a call came into Washington County Central Dispatch of a domestic assault that had occurred on the parking lot at Food Country, 15811 Porterfield Highway, Abingdon, VA. "The caller indicated a female had been assaulted and that the assailant, her boyfriend, had taken her vehicle, along with three small children, ages 3 years, 16 months and 8 months, and fled the scene," stated Sheriff Fred Newman.

The silver Grand Prix was spotted a short time later in Stone Mountain Subdivision. When deputies arrived, the vehicle was located abandoned in a field behind the subdivision. A manhunt for the suspect and his abductees ensued.

Personnel and K-9 units from the Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police, along with Med-flight, converged on the scene. After an intensive manhunt, the suspect and three children were located at 10:30pm in a wooded area approximately ½ mile from the abandoned vehicle.

Joshua Lamont Lee, age 28, of 2453 Red Oak Ridge, Castlewood, VA, was arrested by Sheriff's deputies and has been charged with three counts of felony child abduction and one count of domestic assault. Lee was transported to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail (Abingdon Facility) where he is being held without bond. The accused had previously been released on bond on June 25, 2011, for an offense that occurred May 31, 2011, involving an assault and unlawful injury charges.

The children were transported to Johnston Memorial Hospital by the Washington County Life Saving Crew and appeared unharmed. They were released to the custody of family.

