



FRANKLIN COUNTY **SHERIFF**

PRESS RELEASE

CASE #: 26FRC001094
DATE(s)/Time(s): 06/03/26 6:09 PM
Incident Type/Charge(s): Fugitive from Justice
Location of Incident: 480 Welcome Center Road, Highgate, VT
Accused: Jacob Burtner, 09/30/80 of Bedford, PA

All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The Sheriff's Office does not set bail or conditions of release and is not involved in the decision to modify or dismiss cases submitted to the courts. Further, the Sheriff's Office doesn't publish names of minors or victims of domestic or sexual assault.

Summary:

On 06/03/12 at approximately 6:09 PM, Franklin County Sheriff's Deputy Armin Harambasic responded to the Welcome Center located off Interstate 89 in the Town of Highgate for a person, identified as Jacob Burtner, that was being detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection as he had an extraditable warrant. The warrant was issued by the Mineral County Sheriff's Office in West Virginia for Felony Financial Exploitation of an Elderly Person, Protected Person or Incapacitated Adult.

Traveling with Burtner were his two small daughters, ages five and eight, who were found to be hungry and covered in urine. It appeared that they had not received any proper hygiene in several days.

Investigation revealed that Burtner was believed to be attempting to enter Canada to escape prosecution and that it was further believed that Burtner was planning to harm the children once in Canada.

The Department of Children and Families was contacted, and an Emergency Care Order was granted.

A Trooper with the Vermont State Police assisted with transporting the children back to the Sheriff's Office.

Once at the Sheriff's Office, the children were provided with food that was generously donated by St. Albans Police Dispatcher Hemond. Once custody of the children was assumed by DCF,

the girls were brought to the hospital where they could be evaluated and provided with proper hygiene.

After processing, Burtner was lodged at the Northwest State Correctional Facility for extradition to West Virginia to answer the warrant.

Additional charges against Burtner may be forthcoming.