



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11/28/2025

SEX OFFENDER ARRESTED FOR REGISTRY VIOLATION

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN—On November 26, 2025, PCSO Deputy Carpenter was on routine patrol when he observed a male panhandling while sitting on the wall outside 246 W Jackson St. Due to this property being on the Sheriff's Office "No Trespassing List," which are all routinely patrolled and checked, Deputy Carpenter made contact with the individual.

The male was identified as **Clifford Thorpe** who had previously signed and acknowledged he was trespassed from the properties on the "No Trespassing List." While speaking with **Thorpe** it was determined he was a registered sex offender. **Thorpe** stated that he had moved to Putnam County approximately one or two months prior. Deputy Carpenter checked **Thorpe's** most recent sex offender registry (SOR) information and confirmed that about one month earlier **Thorpe** had reported he was still living in White County.

Registered sex offenders are required to report a change of address within 72 hours. **Thorpe** stated he was currently living on State St in Cookeville, TN in an abandoned house without permission. **Thorpe** was arrested and due to his failure to update his registry information.

Upon further investigation, it was found the property **Thorpe** had been staying at was located adjacent to a daycare located on S Willow Avenue. This placed **Thorpe** within 1,000 feet of a daycare facility, which is an additional violation of his sex offender registry restrictions.

Clifford Thorpe was transported to the Putnam County Jail and charged with Failure to Register – Change of Address and Residing Within 1,000 Feet of a Daycare Facility. He has a bond set at \$20,000.

Sheriff Farris said, "It is important to support our excellent local charities that are equipped to provide assistance to those in need. I encourage Citizens to give through these trusted groups to ensure help is reaching people safely, and prevents situations where giving is done with good intentions but may unintentionally support the bad actors involved in criminal activity."

At the time of arrest, **Thorpe** had received various items while panhandling such as cash, canned food, and clothing. **Thorpe** also has an extensive criminal history.

Sheriff Farris also commended the teamwork behind the arrest, "Our Dispatchers and Sgt. Steinmann, who is over sex offender registration, were vital in this investigation. Their quick coordination, attention to detail, and thorough knowledge of registry requirements allowed our Deputy to act swiftly and safely."

"Earning the Public's Trust Every Day!"



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