



Bates County Sheriff's Office

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Press Release

On December 8, 2014 Bates County Detectives received information of a sexual crime that had occurred on a female victim in Rich Hill, MO. During the investigation, the suspect was identified as Matthew Ray Ward (DOB 03-03-1979) of Rich Hill. Mr. Ward was arrested by Detectives and is currently being held in the Bates County Jail. His bond was set at \$50,000.00 cash or surety. Mr. Ward was formally charged with three counts of sexual assault, which is a class C felony. He was also charged with one count of forcible sodomy – deviate sexual intercourse by forcible compulsion. This charge is an unclassified felony.

