



Bates County Sheriff's Office

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For Immediate Release

On 12/4/2015, The Bates County Sheriff's Office was made aware of a Registered Sex Offender that may be fleeing prosecution. On 12/2/15 the Bates County Sheriff's Office executed an arrest warrant on Richard D Purkey, 10/21/1947. The charges were for Failing to Register as a sex offender and his bond was set at \$5,000 cash or surety. Mr. Purkey bonded out of jail on those charges the same day.

On 12/4/15, The Sheriff's Office was notified by the company that monitors the ankle bracelet that was placed on Mr. Purkey to monitor his GPS location. The company advised the Sheriff's Office that Mr. Purkey was to return to court on 12/4/15 for a sentencing hearing. The Bates County Sheriff's Office contacted the court and was advised that Mr. Purkey was to have appeared in Court at 1430hrs and was expected to plead guilty to additional sexual assault charges. He was expected to be immediately turned over to the Sheriff Office to be transferred the Missouri Department of Corrections.

Mr. Purkey was originally convicted of Rape/Sodomy in Cass County Missouri in 1999. The sexual assault occurred in 1995. This conviction was the reason Mr. Purkey was required to register as a sex offender.

On 5/21/14, The Bates County Sheriff's Office opened an additional investigation of a sexual assault involving a juvenile relative. This investigation resulted in Mr. Purkey being charged with three counts of felony statutory sodomy. At the time his bond was set at \$100,000 cash or surety.

At approximately 12:30pm on 12/4/15 Mr. Purkey cut off his court ordered ankle bracelet and left it on a park bench in a park in the City of Harrisonville. Mr. Purkey failed to appear for his hearing today and is considered to have fled to avoid prosecution. At approximately 4:00pm based on his failure to appear and the fact he cut his ankle bracelet off a new warrant was issued for Mr. Purkey for failure to appear at court to face his charges of 3 Counts of Statutory Sodomy in

