



Bates County Sheriff's Office

Chad Anderson, Sheriff

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For Immediate Release

Reference: Richard Dale Purkey, Wanted Sex Offender

On 12/4/15, The Bates County Sheriff's Office was notified that Registered Sex Offender Richard D Purkey had cut his court ordered ankle bracelet off and failed to appear for his plea hearing in the Circuit Court of Bates County. Purkey was expected to plead guilty to multiple sex offenses which include three counts of Statutory Sodomy and three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a child.

During the Investigation numerous leads were followed up on. Request was sent to multiple local, state and federal agencies to assist in locating Mr. Purkey. As the investigation continued into the night leads from the public and other agencies began to filter into the Sheriff's Office. A call from Bates County Investigators to the Kansas City International Airport revealed that Mr. Purkey had purchased an airline ticket to Houston Texas and then onto Nicaragua.

A call went out to those international airports with the information about Mr. Purkey. Bates County Investigators responded to the Kansas City Airport to meet with Investigators from the Airport Police. Together they were able to get a clothing description of Mr. Purkey and confirmed that he was on the flight to Houston Texas. Unfortunately by the time that information was obtained the flight had already landed in Houston. The flight that he was originally believed to be on that was headed to Nicaragua was already airborne and was expected to land in Nicaragua. Investigators passed the information to the United States Marshal Service agents which was coordinating efforts with the National Police of Nicaragua to take Mr. Purkey into custody when the plane landed. At this point investigators could only wait until information from Nicaragua was received.

At approximately 630 AM on 12/5/15, The Bates County Sheriff's Office received information from Houston Texas Police Department that the US Customs had detained Mr. Purkey while he was attempting to board a plane that was schedule to depart for Nicaragua. Mr.

Purkey was then transported to the Harris County Texas Jail where he has signed extradition back to Missouri. Investigators are now working to bring Mr. Purkey back to Missouri and with the Prosecutors Office for additional charges on Mr. Purkey.

"I would like to thank all those involved in taking Mr. Purkey into custody, from the Sheriff's Office employees who were dedicated to conducting an around the clock investigation to the Federal Agencies that made contact with their associates across the United States and in Nicaragua." says Sheriff Anderson. "I would also like to thank the Media for assisting us to get the information out and the Citizens who called in tips and used their social media accounts to share our press release across the country to locate Mr. Purkey. I hope this sends a message that if you prey on the weak and innocent that this Sheriff's Office and this community will stand with the victims to seek Justice."

