



Rick Staly, Sheriff  
**FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

## NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017

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### **Rapist Arrested For Multi-County Offenses**

Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly and Volusia County Chief Deputy John Creamer held a joint press conference Wednesday afternoon to discuss the arrest of Obtravies Andre Watkins, 34. Watkins faces charges of kidnapping and sexual battery in both counties. Flagler County also filed charges for attempted second-degree murder.

Flagler and Volusia County Deputies responded to a 9-1-1 call Monday morning just before 9:30 a.m. in reference to a sexual battery. The victim was seen by passersby crawling from the woods, naked and bleeding.



Left: Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly, Volusia County Chief Deputy John Creamer, Commander Steve Brandt and Commander Rick Ramirez at the press conference at the Sheriff's Operations Center in Bunnell, FL. Right: Obtravies Andre Watkins, 34, in a Volusia County inmate photo.

According to the victim, the suspect had picked her up in Daytona around midnight on Monday in a red car and sexually assaulted her multiple times in Volusia and then in Flagler County. The suspect told the victim that he had a gun and would use it if she didn't comply with his demands.

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The victim reported being driven into Flagler County, dragged into the woods, beaten and strangled by the suspect's hand and his belt until she lost consciousness. She regained consciousness and they struggled again until the suspect put his foot on the back of her head and tightened the belt again until she lost consciousness a second time. Watkins then left the victim for dead.

The victim was able to give deputies a clear description of the suspect and the suspect's vehicle. Through this investigation and the use of Daytona Beach Police Department's License Plate Readers, a possible vehicle was located that was registered to Watkins, who is a known registered sex offender.

A traffic stop was initiated by Volusia County deputies on Watkins' vehicle after he was observed in Volusia County. Watkins, the driver of the vehicle, was immediately arrested for driving with a suspended license and taken to the Sheriff's Operations Center in Volusia for an interview. Watkins was additionally charged by Volusia County for sexual battery with force and kidnapping.

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office worked together with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office to locate the suspect and obtain search warrants. The victim positively identified Watkins as her attacker during a photo line-up.

"This was great detective work and a strong joint effort between both Volusia and Flagler County Sheriff's Offices resulting in identifying and apprehending the suspect in less than 24-hours," Sheriff Staly said. "This dangerous and violent dirtbag is off the streets and needs to stay in jail for the rest of his life before he kills someone."

"Detectives from both agencies worked together and pooled their resources to first get the victim the medical care that she needed and then worked together to locate multiple crime scenes, collect and analyze forensic evidence and then track down Watkins," Chief Deputy Creamer said at the press conference on behalf of Volusia Sheriff Mike Chitwood, who could not attend the conference.

Watkins has an extensive criminal history including 21 felonies and 10 misdemeanors. He has also served time in state prison. He was required to register as a sex offender in 2003 after being convicted of Flagler County charges of lewd and lascivious act on or in the presence of a child under 16 years of age. He is currently being held in the Volusia branch jail with no bond.

Both Sheriff's Offices have asked that if there are any other victims of this perpetrator to please come forward.

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