



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Monday, November 26, 2018

**Contact:** Brittany Kershaw; (386) 586-2637; [bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com)

## **Father Extradited to Flagler County to Face Parental Kidnapping Charges**

Flagler Sheriff's Deputies booked Phillip Bradley Steven McGraw, 28, in to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility on Sunday. McGraw had been extradited from Monroe County, Tennessee to face two counts of kidnapping a minor and two counts of conspiracy to commit a felony. McGraw is being held on \$70,000.00 bond.

On July 28, 2018 FCSO deputies contacted Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) in Tennessee where it was believed McGraw and Sarah Jones had fled with two minor children. Jones had entered the children's legal guardian's home overnight and took the children to Tennessee. Working with Monroe County Sheriff's Office, FCSO detectives obtained an arrest warrant on Sarah Jones for two counts of kidnapping and on McGraw for two counts of kidnapping and two counts of conspiracy. Jones was previously extradited back to Flagler County.

"I am glad that both subjects are now able to face their charges in Flagler County," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "Custody arrangements are in place for the protection of the children and cannot be violated."

McGraw's first appearance was Monday morning.

### **Original News Releases below**

**Date:** Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Contact:** Shannon Martin | (386) 586-4802 | [martin@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:martin@flaglersheriff.com)

## **FCSO Arrests Second Suspect in Parental Abduction of Juveniles who were Located in Tennessee**

On Tuesday, October 2, 2018 the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) obtained a warrant charging Phillip Bradley Steven McGraw with two counts of kidnapping a child under 13 and two counts of conspiracy to commit a second-degree felony. These charges come after a two month investigation that

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began in July when two juveniles, McGraw's children, were reported missing.

The two missing children were located quickly in Sweetwater Tennessee with their mother. At the time, Phillip McGraw's connection with the parental abduction was unknown. However, FCSO obtained search warrants for their cell phones and determined that both parents conspired to abduct the children.

"Our detectives did a great job continuing this investigation until all suspects were identified and their involvement known," said Sheriff Staly. "Court ordered child custody is not something you can pick and choose whether to abide by. These orders are done after a thorough investigation and to protect children. One of our top priorities in Flagler County is protecting our children, even if that means protecting them from their own parents," Sheriff Staly said.

FCSO worked with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in Sweetwater, TN to locate Phillip Bradley Steven McGraw. He was arrested by MCSO and is awaiting extradition to Flagler County.

### **Original News Releases below**

Date: Wednesday August 15, 2018

Contact: Anna Hackett | (386) 281-9880 | ahackett@flaglersheriff.com

## **Kidnapper Returned to Flagler County**

Flagler Sheriff's Deputies booked fugitive Sarah Jones in to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility on Wednesday. Jones had been extradited from Monroe County, Tennessee to face two criminal charges of kidnapping of a minor. Jones is being held on \$25,000.00 bond.

On July 28, 2018 FCSO deputies contacted Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) in Tennessee where it was believed Jones had fled with two minor children. Jones had entered the children's legal guardian's home overnight and took the children to Tennessee. Working with Monroe County Sheriff's Office, FCSO detectives obtained an arrest warrant on Sarah Jones for two counts of kidnapping. MCSO arrested Jones on the fugitive charges and booked in to the MCSO jail. Jones had been awaiting extradition back to Flagler County.

"This was great teamwork between our deputies, DJJ and MCSO," said Sheriff Staly. "We will go wherever fugitives flee to bring them back to face the judge."

Jones is scheduled for first appearance Thursday August 16, 2018.

**Date:** Monday, July 30, 2018

**Contact:** Shannon Martin | (386) 586-4802 | [martin@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:martin@flaglersheriff.com)

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# Two Children Abducted from Legal Guardians Found in Tennessee, Mother Arrested

On Saturday, July 28, 2018 the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) received a call from 9 Cute Court, Palm Coast, concerning to two missing juvenile children, ages 3 and 5.

Upon arrival, FCSO made contact with James A. Jones (legal guardian/great-grandfather), Billie Dean Jones (legal guardian/great-grandmother), and Kristi M. Kocer (grandmother) who stated the missing children were put to bed Friday evening and were missing from their beds the following morning. They also stated clothing, toiletry items (e.g. toothbrushes), and toys belonging to the children were also missing from the residence.

James' and Kocer stated they believed the children's mother, Sara Elisabeth Jones, had taken the children and were traveling to Tennessee to be with their father, Phillip Bradley Steven McGraw. They stated Sarah had made comments on July 26<sup>th</sup> about taking the children from the home. DCF had taken custody of the two children and gave them to the grandparents after the mother, Sara Jones, had wrecked her vehicle and endangered the children while driving under the influence of Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and Marijuana with her children in the backseat.

The legal guardians advised Sarah was at the residence Friday evening to attend a family counseling session and to visit with the children. The grandparents did not give Sarah permission to enter the residence during the night or take the children from the residence. Sara had a key to the home.

While deputies were on scene investigation James Jones received a phone call from McGraw's former boss reporting he had called Phillip McGraw and heard children's voices in the background that he believed were the missing children. FCSO deputies contacted the Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) in Tennessee. MCSO responded to 2610 Reed Springs Road, Sweetwater, TN, and, located the two missing juvenile's with their other grandmother. Flagler detectives obtained a warrant charging Sara Jones with two counts of kidnapping and she was arrested and by MCSO and is being held in the Monroe County Jail with a \$25,000.00 bond pending extradition to Flagler County.

"I'm thankful these children are safe and out of harm's way," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "Our detectives worked quickly with DCF and Tennessee authorities to find these children and track down the offender. You cannot interfere in custody issues ordered by a judge without risking being arrested. These orders are done to protect children when their parent's don't and are not taken lightly."

DCF in Tennessee currently has custody of the children and are coordinating with Florida DCF on returning them to their legal guardians. FCSO is working with TN authorities to extradite Sara Jones back to Flagler County.

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