



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NEWS RELEASE

Date: November 6, 2019

Prepared by: Brittany Kershaw

Phone and Email: (386) 586-2637; bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com

Release #: 219

Donations Being Accepted for Children Removed from Filthy Home on Halloween

On October 31, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) along with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) removed five siblings from a home on Water Oak Road in Bunnell after finding the residence to be untenable. Both parents, Dennis and Betty Allen, were arrested for five counts each of Child Neglect.

The FCSO received an outpouring of support from the community and a strong desire to help these children. The Community Baptist Church located at 956 S. Old Dixie Highway in Bunnell has been designated as the collection site for donations for the children. Donations will be collected on site from 9 a.m. until noon on Monday through Thursday.

Those wishing to donate financially can mail or drop off a check to the church made out to Community Baptist Church with "Allen Children" written in the memo line on the check. Financial donations can also be made online by visiting <https://cbc956.breezechms.com/give/online>. If you have any questions, you may contact the church by calling 386-437-1010 or send an email to cbc956@gmail.com. These funds will be managed by the church staff and distributed for each child's needs equally. Donated monies will not go to the parents.

The children are in need of new or gently used clothing, underwear, socks, and shoes. There are three girls, ages 14, 12, and 8, and two boys, ages 9 and 6.

- 14 yr old girl wears size 14/16; shoe size is 7.
- 12 yr old girl wears size 14/16; shoe size is 6 ½.
- 9 yr old boy wears size 10/12; shoe size unknown.
- 8 year old girl wears size 7/8; shoe size unknown.
- 6 yr old boy wears size 7/8; shoe size unknown.

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“I am so impressed with the community’s desire to help these children in need,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “Thank you for coming together to help and support them and thank you to the Community Baptist Church for stepping up to help them and for looking out for them.”

Currently, the children are being cared for in foster homes with the girls in one home and the boys in another by the Department of Children and Family Services and the Community Partnership for Children (CPC). CPC is working on a plan to place all siblings together. Sheriff Staly, who serves on the Board of Directors for the Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranches (FSYR), has worked with FSYR President Bill Frye who agreed to hold five vacancies at the FSYR Bradenton Campus for the children. However, the state has not agreed to this placement and final placement decisions are up to DCF and the courts.

Original News Release below.

Date: November 2, 2019

Prepared by: Brittany Kershaw

Phone and Email: (386) 586-2637; bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com

Release #: 219

Parents Charged with Five Counts of Child Neglect After Juvenile Makes Desperate Call for Help on Halloween

On October 31, the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office (FCSO) received information through the Abuse Hotline stating that a 14 year old juvenile was contemplating suicide due to her living conditions and alleged physical and emotional abuse by her mother.

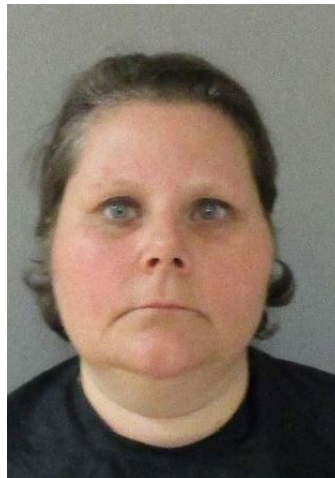
The juvenile also stated that she was currently being homeschooled but not being taught anything. Instead, the juvenile alleged that she was being used as a full-time caregiver for her four younger siblings (ages 6, 8, 9, and 12), three dogs, a rabbit, and two chickens while the parents, Betty Nicolichia-Allen (42 years old) and Dennis Allen (33 years old), work until the late hours of the night.

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Left: Dennis Allen



Right: Betty Nicolichia-Allen

FCSO responded to the residence on Water Oak Road in Bunnell and immediately noticed that the home was in complete disarray. The grass in the front yard was high enough to hide a small child and littered with gas cans, beer cans, rust covered metal materials, and other trash. The front porch of the home was covered in fecal matter from two chickens that freely roamed the property.

FCSO deputies spoke with the juvenile who invited them inside the home. The 14 year old confirmed that she was the one who called the Abuse Hotline. Further inspection of the home revealed deplorable living conditions. Every room of the home contained an abundance of animal feces, animal urine, rotting food, roaches, and other flying insects. There was no edible food in the refrigerator and there was one bag of frozen chicken in the freezer. Some rooms were so littered with trash that deputies were unable to see the floor and their boots stuck to the filth-covered floors.

When deputies inspected the only bathroom within the home, they discovered a water hose being run through the window and into the shower due to the home having no running water. The toilet appeared to have been used for days on end with no way to discard the waste in the bowl.

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Left: Kitchen



Right: Refrigerator

When interviewed, the children told deputies the last time they had been bathed ranged between 3 days to a week. The children also told deputies that when they did bathe they had to travel to Bull Creek Fish Camp since there was no running water inside the home.

“This is a traumatic situation for all of the children involved,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “Halloween is a day where kids should be out having fun, not contemplating ending their life. I want to commend the girl for calling the Abuse Hotline and being brave enough to ask for help. These children were living in deplorable conditions. I am thankful that these kids are now safe from these two individuals who obviously do not know how to properly care for children.”

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) responded to the scene and took custody of the children. Based on statements made during the initial call to the Abuse Hotline and while deputies were on scene, one juvenile was taken into protective custody under the Baker Act.

Betty Nicolichia-Allen and Dennis Allen are each charged with five counts of Child Neglect. They were arrested on Friday afternoon, November 1, and transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility. They remain in jail on a \$5,000.00 bond each.

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1769 East Moody Blvd., Bunnell, FL 32110

386-437-4116 – Fax 386-586-4820

Mailing: P.O. Box 879, Bunnell, FL 32110

www.flaglersheriff.com