NEWS RELEASE

Date: Friday, February 7, 2020
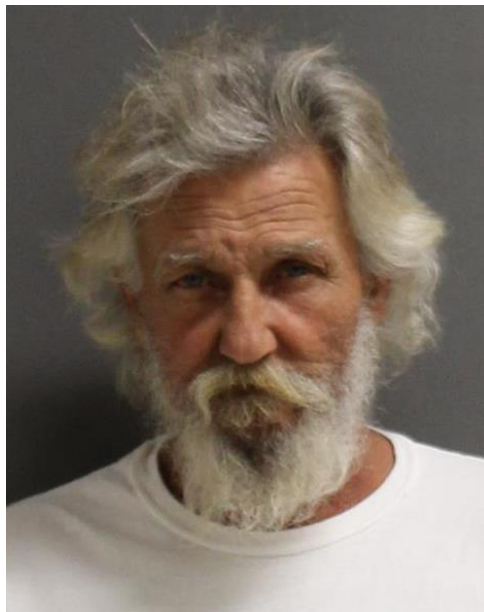**Prepared by:** Shannon Martin
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Release #: 27

Daytona Beach Man Arrested after Abducting Patient from Palm Coast's Grand Oaks Rehabilitation Center

On December 15, 2019, The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) responded to Grand Oaks Rehabilitation Center in reference to a patient, Hugh Wallace (57 years old), being removed from the premises without the permission of his state appointed guardian.

Further investigation discovered that Hugh had left the facility in a blue Dodge Grand Caravan that was driven by a white male, later identified as Nickolas Warren (64 years old). During the investigation, FCSO deputies discovered that Wallace was a ward of the State due to severe injuries he sustained from a 2018 car accident and required professional medical care and Warren had befriended him.

Because of the combined efforts made by the FCSO's Investigative Services Division, the FCSO Community Policing Division (Patrol) and the Daytona Beach Police Department (DBPD), Wallace was

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safely located that evening in Daytona Beach and returned to Gran Oaks Rehabilitation Center. Additionally, Nickolas Warren was interviewed by deputies and later confessed to his role in the incident.

On February 6, 2020, the FCSO obtained an arrest warrant charging Nickolas with Interference with Custody.

"This was a scary situation for our victim that could have had a very different outcome," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "As a Ward of the State, Mr. Wallace is someone who requires medical care by trained professionals in order to maintain his health and well-being. My advice to anyone who disagrees with a court order is to appeal it the legal way, not by breaking the law because that will only result in your arrest, more legal problems for you and potential fines and jail time."

Nikolas Warren was arrested by the Daytona Beach Police Department and transported to the Volusia County jail where he was held on a $5000.00 bond.

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