

Rick Staly, Sheriff FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday September 20, 2018 **Contact:** Anna Hackett | (386) 281-9880 | <u>ahackett@flaglersheriff.com</u>

Charges Filed Against Palm Coast's Dr. Fruehan

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) has filed a charging affidavit with the State Attorney's Office on Dr. Florence Fruehan recommending he be charged on two cases of misdemeanor battery. The charges are in connection with recent allegations that accuse Dr. Fruehan of inappropriately touching a female patient during an office visit.

After receiving complaints earlier this year FCSO detectives began an investigation and requested anyone with similar experiences make a report with the Sheriff's office and/or the Florida Department of Health. Since then, several more individuals came forward and reported similar incidents, describing the same inappropriate touching in multiple cases. Unfortunately, in many of these cases the statute of limitations has expired making criminal charges impossible.

"I am very proud of our detectives and the excellent work they have done following every lead to make sure this individual is held responsible for the trauma that he has caused to victims," Sheriff Staly said. "Unfortunately, the statute of limitations makes it impossible to charge him on every alleged assault. We are still investigating other allegations against him. We are ask that anyone who may have been assaulted to come forward so we can make sure this guy never has the opportunity to victimize someone again."

In two cases, probable cause was found and the statute of limitations had not expired so FCSO Detectives have submitted and recommended misdemeanor charges for battery with the State Attorney's Office on Dr. Fruehan.

Additional allegations are still actively being investigated and more charges may be filed

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in the future. FCSO asks that anyone who was a patient of Dr. Fruehan and feels they had an inappropriate experience with him to contact us at 386-313-4911 to file a formal complaint.

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