



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2019

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

Former Palm Coast Doctor Fruehan Arrested on Two Felony Charges

Florence Fruehan, 59, was arrested on Wednesday afternoon after Flagler County Sheriff's Deputies executed two Capias orders issued by a Flagler County Judge. The orders and the arrest stem from months-long investigations into numerous reports from patients and former patients of the former doctor.

Two victims reported that the doctor had touched them inappropriately during office visits and that the touching happened without the consent of either victim, and without serving any legitimate medical purpose.

The incidents, while sexual in nature, did not meet the statutory requirements for a Sex Crime. The fitting charge is Battery on a Person 65 Years of Age or Older. Due to the victims' ages in both instances, the charge is considered a felony under Florida law.

"Our detectives have not stopped working on this case since it was first reported to us," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "There is still more work to be done but I am pleased that the State Attorney's Office has moved forward on these two felony charges. I hope the victims feel that justice is being served."

Fruehan was arrested for two counts of Battery on a Person 65 Years of Age or Older and will be booked into the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility. He is will be held on a \$10,000.00 bond.

Original News Release below:

Date: Thursday September 20, 2018

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

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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 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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