



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NEWS RELEASE

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Putnam County Woman Arrested for Abusing Disabled Person In Her Care

On November 22nd, 2022, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office responded to a complaint of a suspicious incident at the Palm Coast Community Center located at 305 Palm Coast Parkway NE in Palm Coast. Upon arrival, a concerned citizen provided information to an FCSO Community Policing Division (CPD) Deputy that a yet-to-be-identified female had possibly physically abused a disabled male on the property the day prior. Surveillance footage was provided to the Deputy and the case was turned over to the FCSO's Major Case Unit.

Detectives reviewed the footage which depicted a disturbing encounter between the female suspect and a disabled adult male. The woman could be seen shoving the male and striking him in the face several times, both with an open hand and a closed fist.

Utilizing advanced technology with the assistance of the FCSO's Real Time Crime Center, Detectives identified the female as 30-year-old Chelsey Renee Payne of San Mateo, Florida. Payne was employed at the time of the incident by East Coast Habilitation Options, Inc., but was later fired after the incident was reported to the company.

On the evening of December 2nd, 2022, Detectives obtained a warrant for the arrest of Payne on the charge of Abuse of a Disabled Adult, a third-degree felony. Payne was later arrested at her residence in Putnam County with the assistance of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office.

Payne was transported to the Putnam County Jail, where she was held without bond until she was transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility where she posted her \$7,500 bond and was later released.

"This supposed 'caretaker' clearly did not show any care or compassion while she was abusing a disabled person," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "We send our deepest sympathies to the victim and their family. I commend our Major Case detectives for quickly solving this case with initially very little information to go on."

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Chelsey Payne (Flagler County Jail Mugshot)

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