

MEDIA RELEASE

Deputies Arrest Two Adults Living in an Uninhabitable House With an 11-Year-Old Child

May 19, 2021

On Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., Washington County Sheriff's Office Patrol deputies assisted Washington County Sheriff's Office Civil deputies on a welfare check in the [Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District \(ESPD\)](#) of unincorporated Washington County. For the past few weeks, deputies from the Civil Unit attempted to serve civil paperwork to the occupants of a home with no success.

When deputies got to the house, they noticed multiple packages, noted in the previous weeks' attempts, remained at the front door, one of which contained medication from a local pharmacy. While looking through a window, deputies saw rotting food, trash, a malnourished dog, and black mold on the inside of the windows, amongst other signs that caused concern for the occupants' safety. Additionally, deputies believed an 11-year-old child was in the home as well as two adults.

Deputies knocked on the door repeatedly while announcing their presence but received no response. Deputies forced the door of the home open and were hit with an overwhelmingly foul odor.

Deputies contacted a man, a woman, and an 11-year-old child. Shortly after contacting the three people, Metro West Ambulance transported the 11-year-old child to a nearby hospital for precautionary reasons. The Department of Human Services (DHS) responded to the hospital and took the child into protective custody.

Detectives from the Sheriff's Office's Violent Crimes Unit responded to the scene to assist with the investigation.

Deputies and detectives were granted a search warrant for the house to obtain additional evidence related to charges of [criminal mistreatment in the first degree](#) and [animal neglect in the second degree](#). While searching the home, deputies located a metal dog kennel containing layers of dog feces and pools of dog urine covered with ants, flies, and other bugs. The dog was later taken into custody by Washington County Animal Control.

Additionally, deputies observed garbage, moldy food, human feces, and mold on most of the home's surfaces.

The deputies and detectives described the living conditions inside the home as the worst they have seen during their law enforcement careers.

Both adults were arrested and lodged in the Washington County Jail on criminal mistreatment in the first degree and animal neglect in the second degree charges.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office reminds community members to report all suspicious circumstances and behavior where they believe a child could be in danger. Due to Covid-19



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restrictions, many children have not physically attended school or extracurricular activities where mandatory reporters can observe suspicious injuries or circumstances. If a community member wants to report any abuse or suspicious circumstance, call non-emergency at (503) 629-0111 or the DHS Oregon Child Abuse Hotline at 1-855-503-SAFE (7233). The Oregon Child Abuse Hotline receives calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This toll-free number allows you to report any child or adult abuse to the Oregon Department of Human Services.

To protect the identity of the 11-year-old child, the Washington County sheriff's Office will not be releasing the names of the individuals arrested.

Members of the [Violent Crimes Unit](#) are called upon to investigate serious violent crimes such as homicides, suspicious deaths, adult sexual assaults, kidnappings, robberies, extortion, serious assaults, elder abuse, and missing persons.



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