
LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE



CASE NUMBER: 10-2023

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 05-28-2010 / 5:00 PM

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 06-02-2010 / 8:00 AM

NATURE OF STORY: Arrests made in child abuse investigation

LOCATION: Eugene

VICTIM: 9 year-old male child (adopted child of Hartwigs)

ARRESTED: Hartwig, Alona Lee DOB: 01-09-1964
Blachly, OR
CHARGES: Assault 1
 Assault 2
 Criminal Mistreatment 1 (x5)

Hartwig, Roger Eugene Jr. DOB: 04-27-1959
Blachly, OR
CHARGES: Assault 2
 Criminal Mistreatment 1 (x2)

DETAILS:

The Department of Human Services-Child Welfare (DHS) notified the Lane County Sheriff's Office on March 27, 2010 that a child was being treated at a Portland hospital for suspicious injuries. Sheriff's Office detectives have been working with Oregon State Police and DHS to investigate the circumstances surrounding the injuries suffered by the child.

On Friday, May 28, 2010, Sheriff's detectives, assisted by OSP detectives, arrested Roger and Alona Hartwig for crimes related to the child's injuries. The couple was arrested at the home of family members in west Eugene. The child victim is a nine-year-old boy who was adopted by the Hartwigs. The child had been living in the Hartwig home for approximately five years after first coming into the home as a foster child.

The child was initially taken to Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend in Springfield on March 26, 2010 by the Hartwigs for medical treatment. Due to the nature of injuries present and the physical and medical condition of the child, the child was transferred to Oregon Health and Science University – Doernbecher

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Children's Hospital, in Portland Oregon for continued treatment. The child was hospitalized for more than a month. Treating physicians discovered multiple fractures to the child's ribs, fingers, vertebrae and pelvic bones in addition to a severe, untreated third degree burn to a foot. Physicians described the child's injuries and medical condition as a result of child abuse and medical neglect. Following his release from the hospital the child was placed in foster care through DHS.

The Hartwigs cared for six minor children in their home ranging from nine through 13 years-of-age. Two of the children are Hartwigs' biological children while the remaining four, including the victim, are adopted children. All six minor children in the Hartwigs' care were removed from the home and placed in foster care through DHS when the investigation began on March 27, 2010.

The arrest of the Hartwigs is part of a lengthy investigation involving the Lane County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, DHS staff from Eugene and Portland, Portland Police Bureau and the Lane County District Attorney's office.

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Prepared by: Byron Trapp, Lieutenant