



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

### Media Release

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**From:** Corporal Wendy McGinnis  
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

**Re:** Hernando County Deputies Assist in Capturing Another Jurisdiction's  
Homicide Suspect

**Date:** January 17, 2012

**Case Number:** 2011-01834

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**Wanted Subject:**  
**Douglas Smith, W/M DOB 10/05/1985**  
**Indiana Transient**  
**Last Known Address:**  
**3516 Ross PL**  
**Highland, Indiana 46322**

On January 16, 2012, at approximately 10:40 p.m., the Hernando County Sheriff's Office received a call from a detective with the Indiana Task Force. The detective advised that they had reason to believe that a subject they wanted for questioning, Douglas Anthony Smith, was driving through Hernando County, Florida. It was then confirmed that Douglas Smith was wanted for questioning by the Highland Police Department, Indiana, in reference to a recent homicide in their jurisdiction. Hernando County Deputies were advised that Mr. Douglas was believed to be operating a black 2007 Chevrolet Impala with an Indiana license plate of 894NCE.

At that time a BOLO (Be On the Look Out) was sent out via the police radio to all patrol deputies working in Hernando County. After hearing the BOLO, Deputy Brian Stephens was observing traffic as he sat on the side of the roadway near I-75 and Cortez Blvd. At approximately 11 p.m., Deputy Stephens observed the suspect's vehicle on Cortez Boulevard as it was turning left to travel northbound on I-75. He then notified the dispatcher that he had the vehicle in sight and would continue to follow the vehicle at a safe distance until backup units could arrive. The Communications Center quickly notified the Sumter County Sheriff's Office in an effort to get them to assist if the suspect made it into their county before Deputy Stephen's backup could arrive. At around the 305 mile marker, several back up units arrived with Deputy Stephens however due to them now being out of their jurisdiction the units waited for Sumter

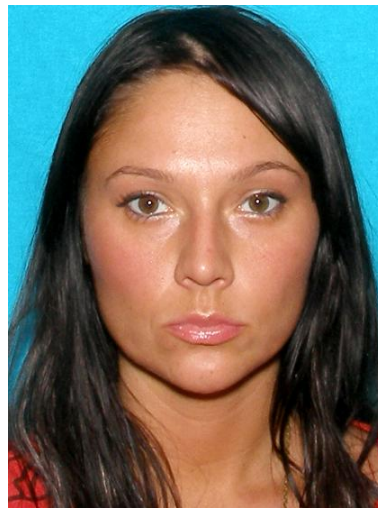
County deputies to arrive.

Sumter County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ed Fritz responded to the 314 mile marker at which time a felony traffic stop was conducted. Douglas Smith pulled his vehicle over and was taken into custody without incident. Sumter County Deputy Fritz took over primary duties due to the vehicle and Mr. Douglas being in their jurisdiction.

"Many times when a deputy is seen sitting on the side of the road they are looking for a wanted or missing person driving a specific vehicle," said Sheriff Al Nienhuis. "This stationary surveillance technique has resulted in many successful and safe apprehensions. Once again, the cooperation between the Hernando and Sumter County deputies played a huge role in methodically taking another dangerous criminal off the streets -- A suspect who likely felt he could elude law enforcement by leaving the state where he allegedly committed a horrific criminal offense."



Suspect:  
Douglas Anthony Smith  
DOB 10/05/1985



Victim (Smith's alleged girlfriend):  
Jacqueline Williams  
28 YOA