



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

Re: Absconded Sex Offender from Kentucky Arrested in Brooksville - 2024-001140615

Date: April 25, 2024

On 04-23-24, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Proactive Unit conducted a traffic stop in the vicinity of California Street and Old California Street in Brooksville. During the stop, contact was made with the passenger, later identified as **Gary Wayne Courtney DOB/04-08-1968**.

Initially providing false identification to detectives, Courtney was eventually identified as an absconded sex offender from Kentucky. In addition to this discovery, Courtney was found to be in possession of methamphetamine at the time of the traffic stop.

Courtney was immediately taken into custody on local charges, with an additional hold placed for extradition to Kentucky.

“This individual certainly has no respect for the law and likely would have caused problems for our community,” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis. “This case is a perfect example of how proactive traffic stops, especially in an area where we have complaints about drug dealing, can certainly prevent different types of crime.”

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office encourages anyone with information regarding suspicious activity or criminal behavior to contact the Vice and Narcotics Proactive Unit at 352-754-6830 or report anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips

If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!

Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or **TIPS from a cell phone.

You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .

You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!