



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

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

Re: 13 Year-Old Arrested for Theft of an AK-47 Assault Rifle

Date: February 24, 2012

On February 23, 2012, a detective with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office arrested a 13 year-old for grand theft of a firearm. The suspect's mother cleans houses in Hernando County as a source of income. On or about February 12, 2012, the suspect was assisting his mother with a residential cleaning in Spring Hill. While cleaning, the suspect proceeded to remove a rifle bag containing an AK-47 assault rifle, numerous rounds of ammunition, as well as several magazines. After a detective notified the suspect's mother of the theft, she eventually located the rifle bag hidden in her son's closet. The rifle was returned to the owner with all of its accessories intact. The suspect confessed to stealing the rifle, because he really liked it and knew that his mother would never buy him one. He advised that he had no other intentions for the rifle and denied committing any other crimes. The suspect was subsequently arrested for the felony theft and later transported to Ocala per the Department of Juvenile Justice. Detectives are in the process of contacting the mothers other clients to make sure the suspect did not take any other items. As of this date, no other crimes have been reported involving this suspect.

"This is a situation that could have ended in tragedy," said Sheriff Al Nienhuis. "Recently in the Tampa Bay area, there have been several incidents that have involved guns and accidental shootings that have ended in the death of, or serious injury of, innocent victims. I would like to take this opportunity to remind homeowners, whether you have children or not, to please make sure your firearms are properly secured, especially when others will be entering your home."