



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

Media Release

From: Cpl. Michael Terry
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3608

Re: Vice & Narcotics Search Warrant – 5128 Mentmore Avenue, Spring Hill – 2025-00355046

Date: December 15, 2025

On 12-12-2025, detectives with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit, Special Intelligence Unit, and Property Crimes Unit executed a residential search warrant at 5128 Mentmore Avenue in Spring Hill.

The search warrant was the result of a several-month-long investigation, which determined that large quantities of methamphetamine were being sold from the residence. Through the course of the investigation, Justin Byrd (DOB 08-14-1992) was identified as the primary individual responsible for the sale of narcotics from the residence.

Upon execution of the search warrant, Byrd was taken into custody without incident. Two other females and a child were also found to be present inside at the time of the search warrant. A search of the residence and property revealed approximately 932.9 grams of methamphetamine, along with three firearms and various ammunition. Byrd is a convicted felon with 15 prior felony convictions and is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition.

During a post-Miranda interview, Byrd admitted ownership of the narcotics and firearms located during the search warrant. Detectives also located several vehicles and all-terrain vehicles on the property that were initially believed to be stolen or bartered for narcotics; however, none were confirmed to be reported stolen at this time.

Further investigation revealed that Byrd had previously been documented as a suspect in a grand theft auto case from 10-05-2025, in which a Dodge Ram 1500 was stolen from the Motel 6 located at 6172 Commercial Way, Spring Hill.

The same vehicle was later observed leaving the 5128 Mentmore Avenue residence and subsequently fled from Hernando County Sheriff's Office deputies and Florida Highway Patrol troopers.

During the interview, Byrd admitted to being in possession of the stolen vehicle and fleeing from law enforcement. Byrd was also found to be in possession of a stolen license plate from Polk County.

Byrd is currently being held at the Hernando County Detention Center on a no-bond status due to the trafficking charge.

Charges:

- **Grand Theft Auto**
- **Fleeing to Elude Law Enforcement**
- **Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (3rd or Subsequent Offense)**
- **Tag – (Two or More Prior Convictions)**
- **Possession of a Firearm/Ammunition by a Convicted Felon**
- **Possession of a Structure for Trafficking a Controlled Substance**
- **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office remains committed to aggressively investigating and prosecuting individuals involved in the trafficking of illegal narcotics to keep our community safe.

The Department of Children and Family Services was contacted in reference to a child being present in the residence with the narcotics during the search warrant.



Justin Byrd

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!