



Hartford Police Department

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PRESS RELEASE

On Saturday, September 5, 2009, at approximately 1:59pm, the Hartford Police Department received a call regarding a 5-month-old child that had been taken from Veterans Park in the City of Hartford. Investigation revealed that the child had been taken by their estranged father from Illinois. The mother and her child had relocated to the Hartford area months earlier, without the father's knowledge, due to a history of physically abusive and unstable behavior on his part.

Based on the information the department received a joint investigation was undertaken that ultimately involved assistance from the Washington County Sheriff's Department, the Washington County District Attorney's Office, the Wisconsin Department of Criminal Investigations, the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Dane County Sheriff's Department, the Milwaukee Police Department, the West Allis Police Department, the Westmont Illinois Police Department, the Illinois State Police, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

We are happy to report that the combined efforts of these agencies have resulted in the father being located in the area of S. 108th St. and National Ave. in the City of West Allis. The suspect was taken into custody by the West Allis Police Department at approximately 6:39pm. The child was located unharmed and has been re-united with its mother.

Felony charges for Interfering with Child Custody are being requested through the Washington County District Attorney's Office against the 29-year-old Illinois man for his actions in this incident.

It should be noted that all suspects enjoy the presumption of innocence. The state must prove all charges at trial.