

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

85 Industrial Tract
Hudson, NY 12534
24 Hr Dispatch (518)828-3344
Fax (518)828-9088



Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID P. Bartlett

Contact: Lieutenant Wayne Lopez
(518) 828-0601 Ext. 1404

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 26th, 2015

Sheriff's Office arrests two in Welfare Fraud Investigations

Hudson, NY – Columbia County Sheriff David P. Bartlett reports that the Welfare Fraud Task Force has arrested two individuals this week for their involvement in welfare fraud.

Investigator William Dunspaugh, who is assigned to the Welfare Fraud Task Force arrested 25 year old Patrice Welch of North Front Street Hudson, New York and charged her with Three (3) counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E-Felony. The Day Care Unit of the Department of Social Services received a "tip" that Welch may be submitting bills for child care that were not accurate. Because of the "tip" the Department of Social Services had not yet paid out the subsidy, but the amount that would have been paid out was approximately \$1,360.00. The month long investigation lead to an arrest warrant for Welch. She was taken into custody at the Sheriff's Office on Tuesday February 24th, 2015 at 11:45am. Welch was arraigned before Judge Connor in Hudson City Court where she was released on her own recognizance for a later court date.

At 8:00am on Wednesday February 25th, 2015 at the Sheriff's Office, Inv. William Dunspaugh arrested 24 year old Kayla Hildenbrand of Prospect Street Hudson, New York and charged her with Welfare Fraud in the First Degree and Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, both class E-Felonies. It is alleged that Hildenbrand failed to report employment income that she was receiving while being on Public Assistance. She received approximately \$1900.00 in assistance that she was not entitled to. Hildenbrand was also arraigned before Judge Connors in Hudson City Court and released on her own recognizance with a later return date.

Along with Investigator Dunspaugh, the Columbia County District Attorney's Office and the Department of Social Services assisted in the investigation.

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Sheriff Bartlett would like to remind the public that if anyone has information of, or suspects anyone of committing welfare fraud to please call the Sheriff's Office Crimes Tips Line, (518) 822-8477 or to contact Investigator William Dunspaugh at (518) 828-4316 ext. 1409.