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SLIDELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Daniel Seuzeneau
Public Information Officer

For Immediate Release

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Information/Clarification in Reference to Tampa Kidnapping Case

Due to the overwhelming amount of requests in reference to the Kidnapping case out of Tampa, Florida, here is the connection to Slidell that everyone is asking about.

In June of 2012, Joshua and Sharon Hakken were staying at a local hotel in Slidell. The Slidell Police Department was called in reference to a disturbance involving Mr. and Mrs. Hakken. When police arrived, both Mr. and Mrs. Hakken were acting in a bizarre manner that alarmed officers. They were talking about "completing their ultimate journey" and were traveling across the country to "take a journey to the Armageddon". Let it be noted that both of their children were present in the hotel room at the time.

Based off their behavior, and the fact that narcotics and weapons were located inside of the hotel room, officers contacted the Office of Child Services (OCS). OCS determined that the children were in danger and needed to be taken into custody by the State of Louisiana and temporarily placed in a foster home. Mr. Hakken was placed under arrest for Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and the Use of a Controlled and Dangerous Substance in the Presence of Minors. Officers also took custody of several weapons for safe keeping.

Approximately two weeks later, Slidell Police were notified that Mr. Hakken had shown up to the foster family home (somewhere in Hammond, LA) with a firearm demanding the return of his children. The foster parents called 911, and Mr. Hakken fled without his children. We have heard nothing until yesterday. Slidell Police was contacted by the FBI and the authorities from Florida to inform us about the kidnapping. They requested any and all information that we had on the Hakken's.

Other than the arrest made by the Slidell Police Department, the Hakken's have no known connection to Slidell. The Slidell Police Department posted the Amber Alert from Florida on our Facebook page yesterday afternoon, and also informed all of our officers about the situation as a precautionary measure. We have no reason to believe that Mr. Hakken will return to Slidell, but since we have dealt with him in the past, we wanted to make everyone aware that there is a possibility he could return for some reason or another.

I hope this clarifies any questions and concerns. If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Public Information Officer - Contact Information

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