



WINTER HAVEN
The Chain of Lakes City
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Gary W. Hester, Chief of Police

Date: Oct. 31, 2011
Time: 11:30 A.M.
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WINTER HAVEN – A Winter Haven mother of four has been arrested for leaving her children alone in deplorable conditions at a Winter Haven motel.

Kimberly Lightsey (W/F, DOB 10/23/82) was arrested on charges of Child Neglect and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor when her children, ages 1, 3, 7 and eleven-years old, were left unsupervised. Two of the children have medical issues, one requiring constant care and medicine on a regular basis.

Just after midnight on Oct. 30, 2011, a guest staying at the Howard Johnson's Motel (1300 3rd St., SW, Winter Haven) heard a child crying for a long period of time. The witness looked out in the hallway and saw a child strapped in a stroller that had flipped over.

When police arrived, nobody was able to identify the parent of the child. Employees were able to tell police what room the child was from. Police discovered the door of the room slightly open with three other children asleep inside. No adults were inside the room. The room was in complete disarray with trash, clothes and food crumbs all over the floor. The only food in the room was a few Rice Krispy Treats, milk and two small bottles of juice.

The oldest child told police her mother said a lady by the name of Simone would be looking in on them, but the child had no idea what room Simone was staying in. Police located Simone and she stated the mother abruptly asked her to look in on the kids, but left no information about what room they were in, nor did she say anything about the medical conditions. Simone made numerous attempts to contact the mother by cell phone since she didn't know what room the children were in, but no reply was made until 2:51 a.m. Police were able to verify the attempts made to contact the mother. The mother returned to the motel at 3 a.m., after Police made contact with her.

All four children were picked up by family members.