

WINTER HAVEN POLICE

125 N. Lake Silver Dr., NW • Winter Haven, FL 33881 • Phone: 863-291-5858 • www.winterhavenpd.com

Date: May 20, 2015
Time: 3 P.M.
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WINTER HAVEN – A horrific case of repeated physical abuse and emotional torture on two handicapped citizens has landed in a 52 year-old convicted felon behind bars. Phillip Dale Simons (DOB 6-4-62) was arrested late Tuesday night after his attempt to elude officers failed.

On 5-19-15, Winter Haven Police were notified of the abuse of a disabled female and a disabled minor inside of a Winter Haven residence. The adult female victim reported that Simons repeatedly battered her with a walking stick he named, the "Stupid Stick" and also threatened her numerous times by waving firearms around her and the minor victim in the residence. According to the victim, Simons would repeatedly go off into a rage for unknown reasons with yelling and physical abuse. Sometimes the abuse would be committed with his bare hands, but mostly with the "Stupid Stick".

According to the adult victim, before Simons would leave for his job at Genesis Logistics in Orlando, he would repeatedly threaten her with bodily harm if she were to ever get law enforcement involved. This caused the victim to fear for her life as well as others inside of the residence. Simons would follow up the threats with severe beatings on the arms, legs, torso and head with the "Stupid Stick". The 15 year-old minor also in the home was repeatedly beaten with the stick on the arms, legs, torso and head. Additionally, the minor victim reported that Simons grabbed the victim's genital area in an aggressive manner in order to continue intimidating and traumatize the victim.

On 5-16-15, Simons threatened the adult victim by placing the barrel of a handgun in her mouth stating that he would "kill" her and make the minor victim and a second minor inside of the residence watch. The second minor is severely disabled, non-verbal and under 24-hour nursing care inside of the residence. This threat was in response to the victim disclosing her plan to report the incidents to law enforcement.

On 5-19-15 prior to leaving for work, Simons once again beat the victim on the face and head repeating to her that if she were to ever involve law enforcement that he would kill her. When the abuse was reported to the Winter Haven Police, Detectives started a swift, in-depth investigation in order to locate Simons. Members of the Winter Haven Police Department immediately ensured the safety of all of the victims. Officials were waiting for Simons when he made an attempt to return to the residence late Tuesday night. Simons parked his vehicle away from the residence and made attempts to hide in areas around the location. However, officers quickly were able to locate him and take him into custody without incident.

Once Simons was in custody, Detectives entered into the residence and found eight long guns, five hand guns along with ammunition, reloading equipment, holsters and boot knives. Detectives also recovered the "Stupid Stick" that was repeatedly used on the victims.

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Simons was booked into the Polk County Jail on charges of Aggravated Abuse/Battery of a Disabled Adult (F1), Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapon (F-2), 12 counts of Possession of a Firearm By A Convicted Felon (F-2), three counts of Possession of Ammunition by Convicted Felon (F-2), Aggravated Assault with Firearm (F-3), Child Abuse Without Great Bodily Harm (F-3), DV/Aggravated Assault With Deadly Weapon (F-3).

Simons will have his first appearance before a judge today (5-21-15) at 1 p.m.

(Location of offense and identity of the victims are confidential per 119.071(2)(h)1., F.S.)