



Harris County Precinct 8

Phil Sandlin, Constable

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PRESS RELEASE

January 6, 2021

On Wednesday, January 6, 2020 at 3:36 AM, Harris County Precinct 8 Deputies were dispatched to the intersection of Sealiner Dr. and Reseda Dr. in Clear Lake in reference to a Welfare Check. The reporting witness observed a male stumbling in the street while carrying a small child who was said to be wearing only a shirt and a diaper.

Deputy J. Toliver arrived and located the male and the child in the 16300 block of Shell Lake Dr. Deputy B. Claunch, Deputy M. Mitchell and Sgt. A. Cruz arrived on scene shortly after. During contact with the male, identified as 23 year old Christian Chase Russell, he appeared to be highly intoxicated, slurring his speech and had unsteady balance. The child was shivering and had a blueish color to his skin. Deputies attempted to reason with the male that there was concern for the child's safety due to his condition and the cold weather with no success.

Upon further investigation, the male provided the name of the child's mother. Precinct 8 dispatchers were able to find contact information for the mother and Deputy Claunch contacted her by phone. After speaking with her, it was learned she was awakened by her boyfriend a short time earlier while she had been sleeping in her bedroom with her 1 year old baby. The mother claimed Russell physically assaulted her by striking her in the face with a closed fist. She further stated while she was being attacked by Russell, he also struck their baby in the face. The mother stated that Russell then pulled her out of the bed by her hair, ripping an earring out of her ear. The victim advised Russell then took the baby from her arms and left the apartment on foot.

Due to the information given, Deputies immediately attempted to take custody of the child and detain Russell who was in a seated position. As Deputies attempted to remove the baby, the defendant rolled onto his side, twisting the baby's neck and placing his weight on him, causing his breathing to be impeded. After a brief struggle, Deputy Claunch was able to safely retrieve the child and Deputies placed Russell into custody without further incident.

Houston Fire Department arrived on scene to evaluate the baby's injuries. He showed to have red skin discoloration on his stomach from the force of Russell's weight on him and also showed to have a black-eye caused by the assault that occurred earlier. The baby was released to a relative and was taken to the hospital to be treated for his injuries.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted felony charges for Injury to a Child and Assault Causing Bodily Injury – Family Violence.

Russell was transported to the Harris County Joint Processing Center and booked into jail. Bonds have not yet been set.

Claudia Lopez, Deputy

Harris County Precinct 8 Constable's Office