



KENDALL COUNTY JOINT PRESS RELEASE



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KENDALL COUNTY CORONER
JACQUIE PURCELL

For Immediate Release

August 6th, 2020

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MENDOTA MAN AND WOMAN CHARGED WITH INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER

On Thursday, July 2nd, 2020 at approximately 1:28 PM, the Kendall County Sheriff's Office responded to the 100-block of Boulder Hill Pass in Montgomery for a child reportedly unresponsive and not breathing. Sheriff's Office deputies and Oswego Fire Department personnel located 6 year-old Kerrigan Rutherford deceased inside the residence.

The Kendall County Sheriff's Office and Coroner's Office conducted a joint investigation into the death. An autopsy was conducted on July 2nd, 2020 which included numerous toxicological tests. Based on these tests and information gathered during the 2-month joint investigation Kendall County Coroner Jacquie Purcell ruled the cause of death to be prescription drug toxicity and the manner to be homicide.

On August 6th, 2020 Kendall County Sheriff's Office detectives took 29 year-old James Davidson and 32 year-old Courtney Rutherford, both of the 800 block of S. Washington Street in Mendota, into custody at the Kendall County Sheriff's Office. The Kendall County State's Attorney's Office approved one count of Involuntary Manslaughter (Class 3 felony) and 2 counts of Endangering the Life or Health of a Child (Class 3 felonies) against both Davidson and Rutherford. They are currently in custody at the Kendall County jail and awaiting bond call Friday afternoon, August 7th, 2020.

The public is reminded that criminal defendants are presumed innocent until the government is able to prove its charges in court beyond a reasonable doubt.