

## Open cellphone helps Indian River deputies track, rescue woman from kidnapping suspect

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INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The Indian River County Sheriff's Office said it tracked a woman's cellphone as deputies pursued a kidnapping suspect who had his victim in a car Wednesday.

The woman deputies said was in peril during the pursuit also kept the cellphone on during part of the two-hour ordeal, allowing deputies to hear where they were traveling and the threats made, the affidavit states.

Deputies took felon Randall E. Grice, 23, of the 700 block of Third Court Southwest, Vero Beach, into custody after the pursuit, which started in the 4300 block of Oslo Road and ended in Lakewood Park in St. Lucie County.

The woman called 911 from the 700 block of 11th Court Southwest, the affidavit states. Dispatchers did not speak to anyone directly but said they could hear pleas for mercy in the background. They pinpointed the location of the call for deputies, who went to the home but found no one, they said. A neighbor told deputies a man and a woman who were arguing had just left in a vehicle, the affidavit states.

The 911 center determined the cellphone user's identity and the type of car she drove, which was a white Nissan Sentra. Deputies recognized the woman's name from previous domestic disputes with Grice. They contacted the woman's father and asked him to call her. In the first phone call, the woman told her father she was OK, the affidavit states. For the second, the deputy made the call and the woman replied to his questions with "yes" and "no" answers. The deputy learned she was driving the car, with Grice as the passenger. The deputy attempted to set up a place to meet with them, he said.

When the woman did not show up at the rendezvous point, the deputy called her again, he said. She turned the phone on and set it down, allowing the deputy to hear Grice threaten to kill her and burn down her house if she turned him in, the affidavit states.

Deputies said they saw the woman driving in the 4300 block of Oslo and made a traffic stop about 5 p.m. However, the woman — under continued threats from Grice — sped away north on 43rd Avenue, the affidavit states. Other patrol cars and the Sheriff's

Office helicopter joined the pursuit, during which Grice took the driver's seat of the Sentra and the woman climbed into the back seat, deputies said.

The pursuit continued to Old Dixie Highway and returned to Oslo, where deputies said they used Stop Sticks on the Sentra. The devices did not slow down the car, the Sheriff's Office said. Grice stopped the Sentra in the 8500 block of Pensacola Road in St. Lucie and fled on foot. Deputies soon apprehended him.

Grice was charged with kidnapping, fleeing to elude, battery domestic violence, driving without a license, reckless driving and resisting arrest without violence. He also was wanted on armed burglary and grand theft charges. Grice remained at the Indian River County Jail on Thursday without bail.

Grice was convicted when he was 16 year old of three counts of grand theft of a motor vehicle and a burglary. Another conviction for car theft followed when he was 17, plus a conviction for attempted escape. Grice served three years in prison.



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