

January 4, 2007

## **NURSING HOME EMPLOYEE ARRESTED FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT**

BISMARCK – James B. Torkelsen of Cando, N.D., was arrested late this afternoon on a warrant for 3 counts of sexual assault. A complaint filed by Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem alleges that Torkelsen sexually assaulted an 86-year-old nursing home resident while Torkelsen was employed at the Towner County Living Center in Cando, N.D.

The sexual conduct was discovered by other employees at the nursing home and reported to law enforcement. A joint investigation was conducted by the Cando Police Department and the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

"There is no indication that other nursing home residents were victimized," Stenehjem said. "The Towner County Living Center administration took appropriate action by suspending the employee and asking for a criminal investigation."

At the request of the Towner county state's attorney, Assistant Attorney General Jon Byers has been assigned to prosecute the case. Torkelsen's first appearance is set for Tuesday morning in Towner county district court, Cando.

Each of the 3 counts of sexual assault is a class C felony carrying maximum penalties of 5 years in prison, a \$5,000 fine, or a combination of both.

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