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News Release

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ARRESTS MADE IN MISSING JUVENILES LOCATED IN WISCONSIN

The collaborative efforts of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the US Marshal's Service, and several local law enforcement agencies have led to the successful recovery of three missing children who were in the care of the State. The children, who were believed to be in the company of their parents, Rodney Moore and Candy Wendt, have been located and are safe.

The situation began on June 16, 2022, when the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) reached out to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, seeking assistance in locating the missing juveniles. The investigation was initiated as the children's well-being was of utmost concern.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, in collaboration with the US Marshals Service, began an extensive search to locate the missing minors. On October 17, 2023, information suggested that the missing children might be at a residence in the 4500 block of Centerville Road.

During the operation, as law enforcement personnel approached the residence, Candy Wendt, one of the parents, left the location in a vehicle. Simultaneously, Rodney Moore, the other parent, had the three children enter his car and attempted to drive away. In a reckless move, Mr. Moore intentionally drove towards two Deputy US Marshals squad cars, forcing them off the road.

On October 25, 2023, the US Marshals Service, in collaboration with the Sauk County Sheriff's Office, Lake Delton Police Department, and Wisconsin Dells Police Department, received new information regarding the whereabouts of the missing children. With their coordinated efforts, the missing juveniles were successfully located, and they were found in the vicinity of 700 North Frontage Road in Wisconsin Dells. Rodney Moore and Candy Wendt were also taken into custody.

This incident highlights the unwavering dedication and commitment to protect the welfare of vulnerable individuals and ensure their safety. The collaborative work between the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the US Marshals Service, and the local law enforcement agencies played a crucial role in this successful recovery.

The Sauk County State's Attorney's Office in Wisconsin reviewed the facts of this case and authorized the following charges: