



Department of Public Safety
Larry L. Noble, Commissioner
215 East 7th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319



For immediate release
Wednesday, January 18th, 2012
Des Moines, Iowa

Local Contact: Special Agent Jeff Uhlmeyer
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Missing Washington County Woman Found In Texas

Crawfordsville, IOWA --On January 5th, 2012, Sharon R. Hopf, age 45, of rural Crawfordsville, Iowa, failed to show up at her business, Hopf Furniture, in Kalona, Iowa. Later that evening, Hopf was reported missing to the Washington County Sheriff's Office by her husband and other family members who had been looking for her throughout the day.

Since that time, the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation(DCI) have been conducting an investigation into Sharon Hopf's disappearance. A nationwide "Attempt to Locate" bulletin was issued for Sharon Hopf and her 1999 Chevy Lumina. As part of the investigation into Hopf's disappearance, multiple interviews were conducted with her family members, friends and co-works. In addition, various searches were conducted in Washington County and an aerial search was conducted by local pilots and the Iowa State Patrol's Air Wing.

On January 7th, 2012, Hopf's vehicle was located by the Warren County, Missouri Sheriff's Office near Wright City, Missouri, which is located approximately 30 miles West of St. Louis, Missouri on Interstate 70. The car was located at an abandoned home located at 28566 Hwy F just outside the city limits. The surrounding area near the location of Hopf's car was searched, but Sharon Hopf was not located. Hopf's car was searched and processed for evidence. During that examination, several items were collected and will be examined for fingerprint and DNA evidence at the DCI's Crime Laboratory. On January 11th, 2012, the Warren County, Missouri Sheriff's Office organized and conducted a thorough grid search of a one mile radius in the area where Hopf's car was located with the assistance of other local law enforcement, the Gateway Search Team, EMS and Fire personnel. Again, Sharon Hopf was not located.



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The investigation had developed information regarding Sharon Hopf and the various stresses that she was managing in her day-to-day life. This information suggested that her disappearance was one of her own doing.

On January 18th, 2012, the Washington County Sheriff's Office was notified by members of Sharon Hopf's family stating that they had been contacted by Sharon Hopf shortly after 8am. The family members were informed that Sharon Hopf was located at a business in Ft. Worth, Texas and that she seemed to be disoriented. Sharon's brother who lives in the Dallas, Texas area drove to the business and located Sharon Hopf. In addition, the Ft. Worth Police Department responded and confirmed that Sharon Hopf had been found and did not need medical attention. Hopf was released to the care of her family.

The Washington County Sheriff's office along with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation would like to thank the Hopf family, volunteers and multiple law enforcement agencies from Iowa, Missouri and Texas in assisting with the Missing Person's Investigation.

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