



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



For immediate release
Friday, January 13th, 2012
Crawfordsville, Iowa

Law Enforcement Agencies Release further Information Regarding the Disappearance of a Washington County Woman

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. A link to the Hopf's information on the Iowa Missing Person Information Clearinghouse website is listed below:

<http://www.iowaonline.state.ia.us/mpic/Controller.aspx?cmd=personDetailCommand&id=27124>

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-workers. 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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At this point of the investigation, there is no evidence to suggest that foul play was involved in the disappearance of Sharon Hopf. Therefore, there is no threat to public safety stemming from this incident in and around Washington County. The investigation has developed information regarding Sharon Hopf and the various stress that she was dealing with in her day-to-day life. This information suggests that her disappearance is one of her own doing. However, the Washington County Sheriff's Office, DCI and law enforcement agencies in Missouri will continue to investigate her whereabouts.

Law enforcement agencies from both Iowa and Missouri continue to investigate the disappearance of Sharon Hopf. Persons with information regarding her whereabouts or information related to her disappearance are asked to contact one of the following agencies:

In Iowa: Washington County Sheriff's Office (319) 653-2107

In Missouri: Warren County Sheriff's Office (636) 456-7088

For questions contact: Washington County Sheriff Jerry Dunbar at (319) 653-2107

The following statement was released on behalf of the family of Sharon Hopf and read by Perry Hopf, husband of Sharon Hopf, at the press conference:

My name is Perry Hopf and my wife is Sharon. My family and I trust that everything that can be done to find Sharon is being done. We want Sharon to know that we understand the stress she has recently been under and just want her to contact us and let us know that she is okay. Sharon if you see this, please know that I love you and miss you, and that you are the most important thing to me.

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