



## BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

2121 County Drive

Columbia, Missouri 65202-9051

DWAYNE CAREY, Sheriff Phone (573)875-1111 Fax (573)874-8953

### Media Release

Incident: Child Abuse  
Location: 6000 Block of Teresa Dr.  
Date & time: 11-11-08 @ 1000  
Case Number: 08-6305

#### Details;

On 11-11-08, the Boone County Sheriff's Department investigated a child abuse that occurred in the 6000 block of Teresa Drive.

The 13-year-old victim went to school today and told the School Resource Officer (SRO) about an incident of abuse at the hands of his stepfather, 38 year-old Robert E. Thurman of Columbia. The SRO learned the abuse occurred at the family home, which is located in the county Northeast of Columbia.

The child alleged the incident occurred because his stepfather accused him of losing video games. The child alleged Robert slammed the child's head into a wall several times, and then knocked him to the ground. He said Robert then stood over him yelling about the games, and then kicked him in the side and back several times.

The child said Robert then knelt down on the floor next to him, held him on the floor and punched him in the head and face repeatedly. The child said this kind of abuse has been going on for about 5 years. The child said this act of abuse stopped when his mother arrived home. The child was instructed to lie to his mother about the injuries he received from the abuse.

The child's mother, 38-year-old Tammy Thurman of Columbia, saw injuries on the child's face from the assault. Tammy asked what happened and the child, fearing reprisal from Robert, told the lie he had been instructed to tell. The child said his mother did not believe the lie and Tammy and Robert then engaged in a verbal argument about the nature of the injuries.

While being interviewed about the abuse, Tammy made statements indicating she knew the abuse had been taking place, even prior this incident. Tammy gave statements indicating she was less concerned about protecting her child from the ongoing abuse than she was law enforcement taking her children.

There is also a 5-year-old child that lives in the home with Tammy and Robert. There was no indication the 5-year-old was being abused. Deputies with the Boone County Sheriff's Department took protective custody of both children. The Boone County Juvenile office and Missouri Department of Family Services were contacted in regard to the investigation as well. Both children were placed with a family member who has been given temporary custody of the children.

Tammy Thurman was arrested for one count of second degree endangering the welfare of a child. She posted a bond of \$500.00 and was released from custody.

Robert Thurman was arrested for one count of child abuse. His bond was set by a judge at \$25,000.00 cash only. As of the time of this press release, Robert is still in custody.

Photos of both suspects have are attached.

**All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**

Release date & time: 11-11-08 @ 1625  
Release authorized by: Sgt. Micheal Perkins