



KANAWHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
301 VIRGINIA STREET EAST
CHARLESTON, WV. 25301
304-357-0169*

Sheriff Michael Y. Rutherford
Chief Deputy Joseph H. Crawford

NEWS / MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 13, 2023.

Contact: Sergeant Joshua L. Lester
joshualester@kcsso.us
Phone: 304.357.0732 office
681.910.3649 cell

Wanton Endangerment

Elkview, WV- An Elkview man was arrested earlier this morning after deputies responded to a gunshot call and found a heavily armed man wearing body armor.

The incident began around 2:19 a.m., at the apartments on Elk Village Drive in Elkview. Deputy M.D. Lonsinger with the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office was already investigating an earlier complaint involving the man after his girlfriend notified deputies that he was suicidal. She told deputies that he had pointed a gun at her and then at himself before she left the residence to call 9-1-1.

When the second 9-1-1 call came in approximately one hour later, another resident of the complex was reporting shots being fired. Deputies arrived to find Mr. James J. Kline, 42 years old, walking on the roadway towards responding deputies with a semi-automatic rifle, wearing body armor, and having a heavy arsenal of ammunition. Mr. Kline dropped his weapon and was taken into custody by deputies.

Deputy Lonsinger reported that evidence was found that Mr. Kline had discharged his weapon multiple times and endangered other residents who reside within the apartment complex.

Mr. Kline was placed under arrest for felony offenses of wanton endangerment, being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm, and being a prohibited person committing a violent crime while wearing body armor.

Mr. Kline has been arraigned by a Kanawha County Magistrate and is currently being held at South Central Regional Jail on a \$200,000.00 cash bond. As always, Mr. Kline is considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Should you have any information regarding this case, please contact Deputy M.D. Lonsinger at Kanawha County Sheriff's Office, 304-357-0169, or submit a "tip" at www.kanawhasheriff.us under the "Tips" tab.



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