

DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

4000 Justice Way
Castle Rock, CO 80109

CONTACT #1: **Deputy Cocha Heyden, Public Information Officer, 303-660-7586 pgr 303-826-7822**
CONTACT #2:

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WHAT: Douglas County Sheriff's Office Files Charges On Highlands Ranch Man Who Attempted to Set Residence On Fire

NARRATIVE: DOUGLAS COUNTY, CO On January 25, 2007, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office presented a case filing to the District Attorney's Office recommending charges be filed against a Highlands Ranch man who attempted to set fire to his residence. The crime was alleged to have occurred December 23, 2006.

On December 23, 2006, Douglas County deputies responded to the 100 block of Whitehaven Circle in Highlands Ranch, Co. on a report that a male party was setting fire to the residence. When deputies arrived on scene they were told by the reporting party that the male was going to light the house on fire and was still inside the house. When the deputies approached they could see smoke coming from the residence. As they entered the house they located the male smoking a cigarette and watching the fire that was set in the kitchen. The male party was taken out of the house and placed into custody. The Littleton Fire Department entered the residence and extinguished the fire.

The male party was identified as Steven Way, 54 years of age from Highlands Ranch, Co. He was taken to the Douglas County Detentions Facility and booked in on Fourth Degree Arson/Class 4 Felony. Way bonded out of the detention facility on December 24, 2006.

Douglas County Sheriff's Office Investigators worked with the Deputy Fire Marshall for the Littleton Fire Department. Through the investigation they were able to determine that the fire was intentional in nature. Investigators were also able to determine that the fire placed two other buildings or occupied structures in danger of damage. The investigation also revealed that Way attempted to set a fire in the residence to due to being upset about his adult son having a party there while he was away.

On January 25, 2007, Douglas County Investigators filed formal charges with the District Attorney's Office recommending that Stephen Way be charged with the following:

- C.R.S. 18-4-105 Fourth Degree Arson/Class 4 Felony
- C.R.S. 18-4-105 Fourth Degree Arson/Class 3 Misdemeanor
- C.R.S. 18-3-208 Reckless Endangerment

Way was formally advised of charges on February 2, 2007.