

Joint Statement

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FORMER WHEATON WOMAN SOUGHT FOR CHILD ABDUCTION IS ARRESTED IN NORTH CAROLINA

**HEATHER UNBEHAUN DECLINES TO WAIVE EXTRADITION TO ILLINOIS;
CHILD REUNITED WITH HER FATHER OF SOUTH ELGIN**

May 16, 2023

*RE: **Heather Unbehaun**: Age 40 (d.o.b. 6-15-1982), LKA of the 500 block of East Illinois Street, Wheaton, Illinois. Case No. 2017CF1437.*

Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser and South Elgin Chief of Police Jerry Krawczyk announce that **Heather Unbehaun**, charged in 2017 after she violated a 2012 court order and left Illinois with her minor child, has been taken into custody by authorities in Asheville, North Carolina.

At the time, Unbehaun was charged with the offense of child abduction, Class 4 felony. Unbehaun is accused of violating the court order, which granted permanent custody of the child to the child's father. The child was nine years old at the time.

A Kane County judge then issued a warrant for Unbehaun's arrest and set her bail at \$10,000 with 10 percent (\$1,000) to apply for bond.

Since then, South Elgin police pursued numerous leads and tips, working with police agencies from around the country in an attempt to locate the child and Unbehaun.

According to South Elgin police, on May 13, 2023, police in Asheville, North Carolina notified South Elgin police that they had received a tip from an Asheville Plato's Closet store employee who recognized Unbehaun and recalled that the child was missing. A store employee immediately notified Asheville police, who contacted South Elgin police. South Elgin police confirmed the identity of the two individuals as Heather Unbehaun and the missing child.

Asheville police then took Unbehaun into custody. The child has since been reunited with her father.

Buncombe County, North Carolina authorities charged Unbehaun with the felony offense of extradition – fugitive from another state. Her next court appearance in the case is July 11, 2023, at the Buncombe County Courthouse.

Unbehaun posted \$25,000 bond today and was released from custody. She declined to waive extradition.

State’s Attorney Mosser said:

“Thanks to all of the law-enforcement agencies around the country who have assisted in the search for this child and Heather Unbehaun over the last six years.”

Chief Krawczyk said:

“We are overjoyed to report that the child is in good condition and in good spirits since being reunited with her father. We would like to thank the Asheville Police Department, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the citizens across the United States who have provided tips to us.”

The case remains under investigation. Anyone with information should call the South Elgin Police Department at 847-741-2151.

The charges against Unbehaun are not proof of guilt. Unbehaun is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the state’s burden to prove her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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