



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, South Carolina
29221-1398

Henry D. McMaster, Governor

Mark A. Keel, Chief

Tel: (803) 737-9000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 29, 2020

Contact: Tommy Crosby
tcrosby@sled.sc.gov
(803) 896-8396

FORMER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CHARGED WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OTHER CRIMES

A former law enforcement officer with the Fort Mill Police Department was arrested in Hillsborough County, Florida on warrants issued by the S.C. Law Enforcement Division stemming from a domestic incident on Dec. 27 in York County.

Stephen James Cleary, 36, was charged with Domestic Violence of a High and Aggravated Nature, Unlawful Neglect of a Child, and Kidnapping.

The SLED investigation was requested by the Fort Mill Police Department.

Cleary is awaiting extradition from Florida.

The case will be prosecuted by the 16th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

###

Warrants Attached
www.sled.sc.gov

ARREST WARRANT

2020A4610202361

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 County/ Municipality of York

York

THE STATE 34-20-0213
against

Stephen James Cleary

Address: Fort Mill, SC 29715-6450

Phone: SSN:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 I Weight: 189

DL State: SC DL #:

DOB: 1984 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jacob M Pridgen - S01182

Offense: Domestic / Domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature

Offense Code: 3814

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-25-0065(A)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

County/ Municipality of

is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

The accused (L-S.)

Date: Signature of Judge

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant on

RETURN WARRANT TO:

York County General Sessions,
1675 York Hwy
York, SC 29745

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of York

York

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jacob M Pridgen who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Stephen James Cleary did within this county and state on or about 12/27/2020 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of York) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Domestic / Domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

On December 27, 2020, at in the County of York and within the town limits of Fort Mill, SC, Stephen J. Cleary, did commit the offense of Domestic Violence of a High and Aggravated Nature by forcibly grabbing and preventing her from leaving their home for more than an hour. During the incident, Stephen Cleary hid and threatened to kill her, and had a firearm laying on the bedroom floor in a threatening manner. cell phone.

Affiant's belief is based upon a SLED investigation.



Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of York

York

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 12/27/2020 defendant Stephen James Cleary

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of York) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Domestic / Domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me on 12/28/2020

 (L.S.)

Signature of Issuing Judge

Curtis J. Cousins

Judge Code: 7440

Issuing Court: Magistrate Municipal Circuit

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ARREST WARRANT

2020A4610202362

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County: York Municipality of

York

THE STATE 34-20-0213

against

Stephen James Cleary

Address:

Fort Mill, SC 29715-6450

Phone:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 1 Weight: 189

DL State:

SC DL #: [redacted] Agency ORI #: SCLD0000

DOB:

[redacted] 1984 Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer:

Jacob M Pridgen - S01182

Offense:

Children / Legal custodian, unlawful neglect of child or helpless person

Offense Code:

2481

Code/Ordinance Sec:

63-05-0070

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

County: York Municipality of

The accused

is to be arrested and brought before me to be

dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant on

RETURN WARRANT TO:

York County General Sessions
1675 York Hwy
York, SC 29745

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County: York Municipality of

York

Personally appeared before me the affiant

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant

did within this county and state on or about

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

in the following particulars:

County: York Municipality of

Jacob M Pridgen

Stephen James Cleary

12/27/2020

County: York Municipality of

violate the criminal laws of the

who

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Children / Legal custodian, unlawful neglect of child or helpless person

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

On December 27, 2020, at [redacted] in the County of York and within the town limits of Fort Mill, SC, Stephen J. Cleary, did commit the offense of Unlawful Conduct toward a Child by placing his six year old daughter at unreasonable risk of harm. With his six-year-old daughter present, Stephen Cleary did forcibly assault his wife, [redacted] and prevented her from leaving their residence for more than an hour. During the physical altercation, the child was knocked backwards and struck her head against the wall. Additionally, Stephen Cleary had a firearm laying on the bedroom floor during the incident. Affiant's belief is based upon a SLED investigation.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County: York Municipality of

York

Affiant's Address

P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 12/27/2020 defendant Stephen James Cleary

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

County: York Municipality of

) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Children / Legal custodian, unlawful neglect of child or helpless person

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 12/28/2020

Signature of Issuing Judge

Curtis J. Cousins

Judge Code: 7440

Judge's Address Moss Justice Center

York, SC 29745-

Judge's Telephone (803)628-3095

Issuing Court: Magistrate Municipal Circuit

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ARREST WARRANT

2020A4610202360

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

York

THE STATE

34-20-0213

against

Stephen James Cleary

Address:

Fort Mill, SC 29715-6450

Phone:

SSN:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 I Weight: 189

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: 1984 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jacob M Pridgen - S01182

Offense: Kidnapping / Kidnapping

Offense Code: 0095

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-03-0910

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

County/ Municipality of

The accused

is to be arrested and brought before me to be

dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant

on

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

York County General Sessions

1675 York Hwy

York, SC 29745

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

York

Personally appeared before me the affiant

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant

did within this county and state on or about

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Kidnapping / Kidnapping

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

On December 27, 2020, at [REDACTED] in the County of York and within the town limits of Fort Mill, SC, Stephen J. Cleary, did commit the offense kidnapping by forcibly grabbing his wife, [REDACTED] and physically prevented her from leaving their residence for more than an hour. During the incident, Stephen Cleary hide [REDACTED] cell phone, threatened to kill her, and had a firearm laying on the bedroom floor in a threatening manner. [REDACTED] Affiant's belief is based upon a SLED investigation.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

York

[Signature]

Affiant's Address

P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 12/27/2020 defendant Stephen James Cleary

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

County/ Municipality of York) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Kidnapping / Kidnapping

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 12/28/2020

[Signature]

Signature of Issuing Judge

Curtis J. Cousins

Judge Code: 7440

Judge's Address

Moss Justice Center

York, SC 29745-

Judge's Telephone (803)628-3095

Issuing Court: [X] Magistrate [] Municipal [] Circuit

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AFFIDAVIT

Jacob M Pridgen

Stephen James Cleary

12/27/2020

County/ Municipality of York

violate the criminal laws of the

who