

Whitchurch-Stouffville man faces obstruction, accessory charges

Accused's dad charged in girl's abduction

Charges have been laid against the father of a man charged with abducting a Durham Region girl who was found in Alberta.

Durham police say the Whitchurch-Stouffville man charged this week transported his 22-year-old son and the girl, 14, to the airport, paid for

their flight to Alberta and then warned his son when police asked questions about his involvement in the girl's disappearance.

The Blackstock girl went missing in early October. Police allege she was taken to Alberta by a person she had been conversing with on the Internet.

She was located in Edmonton a few days after she disappeared.

Blackstock is in Scugog, east of Port Perry.

Tyler James White, 22, of no fixed address was arrested in Alberta and has been charged in Durham with abduction of a person under 16, sexual inter-

ference and sexual assault.

On Wednesday police announced the arrest of 54-year-old Steven White of Whitchurch-Stouffville, the accused man's father, on charges of accessory after the fact to abduction and obstructing police.

-durhamregion.com

Charges against manhunt suspect dropped due to delays

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from seven years ago, they are down from five years ago, the numbers show.

Delays peaked at Newmarket in 2004 when nearly 26,000 charges required an average of 226 days and about eight appearances to deal with.

In 2005, the Newmarket court received 27,094 charges, which required an average of nine appearances and an average of 214 days.

The case of a Markham man arrested earlier this year after a manhunt, who had previous unrelated charges against him dropped due to court delays, has highlighted concerns about the slow pace of justice in York Region.

York Regional Police laid several charges, including four counts of assault, three counts of threatening and mischief offences against Davood Zarinchang, 25, stemming from an arrest in March 2007, according to court documents.

In October 2007, all charges against Mr. Zarinchang were dropped after a judge ruled his Charter rights were violated when he was not given a bail hearing for 24 days after being jailed.

"It is simply unacceptable when an individual is held in cus-

tody and wants to proceed with his show-cause hearing and is unable to do so because of a lack of space," Justice Howard Chisvin ruled.

"The serious nature of this matter could only be remedied by the most significant remedy available, that being a stay of the charges."

In a separate incident, two men armed with guns walked into a home on Taylor Mills Drive North, in the Elgin Mills Road and Bayview Avenue area of Richmond Hill Jan. 27 and demanded cash from the occupants.

Shots were fired and a 21-year-old man, a tenant who was in the process of moving, was struck in the leg, police said.

The man was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Two others in the home were not hurt.

Mr. Zarinchang was arrested after Toronto and York Regional Police officers raided a home in the Yonge Street and Clark Avenue area of Thornhill Feb. 16.

He was charged with attempted murder, two counts of robbery and two counts of forcible confinement.

Those charges have not been proven.

Mr. Zarinchang was scheduled for a court appearance Tuesday to face those charges.

Meanwhile, the 19 extra days

the average court case required in Newmarket last year than in 2000 represents people, Newmarket-Aurora Progressive Conservative Frank Klees said.

"It represents the lives touched by those individuals. It means for every delay, there is additional cost for those individuals," he said.

The government's plan to reduce backlogs fails to provide specifics, Mr. Klees said, adding he does not think the government can meet its 30-per-cent benchmark.

"There is a lot of rhetoric and, in the meantime, our backlog in our court continues," he said.

"Appoint the judges. Pay the people. Make sure the clerks are there — these are fundamental things."

The province notes the numbers, which have been posted to the attorney general's website, include cases where more than one charge has been laid against the same person as a result of a single incident, as well as cases where several people were charged as a result of a single incident.

The total number of charges received and those where a judgment was rendered also does not include a small number of charges that could not be classified into an offence category, according to the province.

Waiting game for court dates

Is justice delayed justice denied?

► Newmarket

Charges received: 29,732

Avg. days to judgment: 195

Avg. appearances to judgment: 8.5

► Oshawa

Charges received: 29,619

Avg. days to judgment: 231

Avg. appearances to judgment: 10.9

► Brampton

Charges received: 39,118

Avg. days to judgment: 245

Avg. appearances to judgment: 10.7

► Old City Hall (Toronto)

Charges received: 42,877

Avg. days to judgment: 307

Avg. appearances to judgment: 12.6

— source: attorney general's office

Statistics are for period between January and December 2007.

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