

# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 10/2/2007

**Larry Campbell**  
Sheriff

**Sgt. Chris Chase**  
Public Information Office  
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## Attempted Murder Arrest

**Southern Leon County-** A Tallahassee woman was attacked as she went to church this morning for daily prayer.

Shortly after 7:15 AM this morning Leon County Sheriff's Deputies were called to the Tallahassee Korean Church in the 4000 block of the Crawfordville Road reference the attack. Deputies discovered the victim who had been brutally beaten and stabbed by her attacker. The victim told deputies she entered into the church between 6:30 and 7:00 and was confronted by her attacker. A struggle ensued and the victim was beaten and stabbed repeatedly. The attacker reportedly then attempted to sexually batter the victim; however, he stopped once she convinced him church members would be arriving soon. The attacker then fled the scene after stealing the victim's purse and car.

A short time later Deputy Cliff Couch spotted the victim's car at a convenience store at the corner of Ruthenia Road and Capital Circle Southwest. Couch confronted the driver, Johnny James Byrd, and took him into custody. Byrd was brought to the Sheriff's Office for questioning.

Violent Crimes Detectives interviewed Byrd and he confessed to the allegations.

Sgt. Chris Chase, LCSO Spokesman said "this is a tragic ordeal for the victim to have gone through. The circumstances of this crime challenge our personal sense of security".

The victim is at a local hospital suffering from multiple stab wounds and fractures to her face.

Byrd is being booked into the Leon County Jail charged with Attempted 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder, Armed Burglary with Person Assaulted, Attempted Sexual Battery, Grand Theft Auto, and Armed Robbery.



**Leon County Sheriff's Office**

