

Joint Press Release of the Roane County Sheriff's Office and the 9th District Attorney General's Office concerning an arrest in a Roane County Murder-for-Hire Scheme

Kingston – Roane County Detective Bryan Walker arrested Laura Ann Buckingham (W/F dob 4/21/1986) of 507 West Race Street in Kingston Wednesday evening on a warrant for *Criminal Attempt to Commit First Degree Murder*. As the warrant alleges 'Buckingham did attempt to commit the offense of first degree murder....she acted with intent to complete a course of action that would constitute the offense of premeditated murder by hiring and paying another to kill Bradley Sutherland and thereby taking a substantial step toward the commission of that offense'.

Bradley Sutherland lives in Indiana and is evidently Buckingham's former boyfriend and the father of her three year old son. Sutherland and Buckingham were sharing custody of the child. Laura Ann Buckingham, since her recent move to Tennessee, has been driving to the Louisville, Kentucky area every Sunday to effectuate the exchange of the son with his father.

At District Attorney General Russell Johnson's request the City of Louisville Police Department Homicide Division's Lt. Todd Kissinger had local detectives contact Bradley Sutherland at his place of employment in Louisville to notify him of the murder-for-hire plot. Sutherland is now cooperating with Roane County Sheriff Jack Stockton's detective division in their ongoing investigation of Buckingham's scheme.

No other arrests have been made and none are expected. Buckingham's bond was set by Roane County General Sessions Court Judge Terry Stevens at \$150,000.

Buckingham's son is back in Indiana with his father.