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Press Release

Re: *State of Ohio vs. Brittany R. Lawler #15-CR-0071*
State of Ohio vs. Nicholas I. Lawler #15-CR-0070

The United States Attorney's Office has informed the Seneca County Prosecuting Attorney that federal charges have been filed against both Brittany R. Lawler and Nicholas I. Lawler for their criminal activity involving the Tiffin teenager. "The United States Attorney's Office has been able to file federal charges which have more severe consequences for the criminal allegations than are available under state law in this situation. After consulting with Detective Marquis from the Tiffin Police Department it was agreed to dismiss our pending state charges and allow the federal charges to proceed" said Seneca County Prosecuting Attorney Derek W. DeVine.

The Seneca County Prosecutor has submitted motions to dismiss the above indictments at this time to allow the cases to proceed in federal court. Mr. DeVine added: "In the end we want justice for the victim, her family, and our community. We are grateful that the United States Attorney's Office has undertaken the prosecution of Mr. and Mrs. Lawler and we trust them to insure that justice is served in these cases."

Federal authorities retrieved Mr. and Mrs. Lawler from the Seneca County Sheriff's custody this morning and have placed them into federal custody. It is expected that they will appear today in US District Court in Toledo.