



1 S Pinckney Street
Suite 600
Madison WI 53702-0001

Phone: (608) 266-3323
Fax: (608) 266-6676
www.oja.wi.gov

For Immediate Release
February 4, 2009

Contact: Ryan Sugden, Office of Justice Assistance, 608-266-6476

Wisconsin Most Wanted Sex Offender Arrested in Colorado

Located Two Days After Wisconsin SAFE Team Provides Tip to Colorado Law Enforcement

David LaFranchi, a Wisconsin Most Wanted Sex Offender, was arrested by Teller County, Colorado law enforcement this morning just days after the Wisconsin's Sex Offender Apprehension and Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team alerted Colorado officials of his status as a Most Wanted Sex Offender. Lafranchi, who was convicted in Clark County of first degree sexual assault in 1991, has been out of compliance with the state's sex offender registry since 2002.

Using a number of aliases and stolen identities, including that of a deceased Colorado man, LaFranchi was able to avoid detection as he went on a multi-state crime spree. Under the alias David Billings, LaFranchi was arrested in 2007 for illegally operating a motor vehicle in Kansas and, using a different identity, was arrested for theft in Colorado in 2008. The SAFE Team connected LaFranchi's aliases and tracked him to a town in Teller County, Colorado.

SAFE Team investigators contacted the Teller County Sheriff's Department on Monday and alerted them to LaFranchi's status as a Wisconsin Most Wanted. This morning, just hours after his true identity had been exposed and his photo shared with local law enforcement, LaFranchi was arrested by officers with the Cripple Creek Police Department as he entered the Teller County Courthouse.

LaFranchi will now be extradited to Wisconsin to face multiple felony charges in addition to possible federal charges. He has been one of the state's Most Wanted Sex Offenders since Governor Doyle launched the list in 2006 as part of his SAFE Initiative, a comprehensive agenda designed to hold offenders accountable and provide the public with more information than ever about sex offenders in Wisconsin.

The SAFE Team in coordination with Department of Corrections Sex Offender Registry Specialists has now located 2,768 fugitive Wisconsin sex offenders who are non-compliant with the state's strict registration laws. LaFranchi is the second Most Wanted Sex Offender to be located this year. Dale Dolan was located in Garden City, Idaho last month after 15 years on the run.

For more information on the Sex Offender and Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Initiative, visit <http://offender.doc.state.wi.us/public/>.