



TETON COUNTY OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TETON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2023

Two Teton County Sheriff's Deputies Charged in Separate Incidents

Today, Monday, October 30, 2023, criminal cases were unsealed charging two Teton County Sheriff's Deputies with misdemeanor crimes for acts perpetrated while on duty in 2023.

Troy Lester Dameron, of Rexburg, Idaho, has been charged with Indecent Exposure for allegedly exposing himself to a dispatcher while on duty in August 2023.¹

Fred Robert Hale, of Tetonia, Idaho, has been charged with Petit Theft and Alteration or Concealment of Evidence for allegedly taking property from the scene of an unattended death investigation in September 2023.

Upon discovery of the officer misconduct in question, the Teton County Sheriff's Office ("TCSO") immediately placed the officers on administrative leave and reported the conduct to the Teton County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney ("TCPA"). Prosecuting Attorney Bailey Smith promptly filed motions with the District Court for the Seventh Judicial District to have a special prosecutor appointed to investigate and prosecute each case, as contemplated by Idaho law. Smith also directed that TCSO initiate internal investigations into each incident as a precursor to TCSO considering employment ramifications for each officer. TCSO promptly initiated the internal investigations at the direction of counsel, and coordinated with outside law enforcement agencies in carrying out the criminal and internal investigations. Randy Neal, the Bonneville County Prosecuting Attorney, was court appointed as Special Prosecutor in both criminal cases.

Special Prosecutor Neal lodged misdemeanor criminal charges against both Dameron and Hale on Friday, October 27, 2023 with the Magistrate Division of the Teton County District Court. Magistrate Judge Brendon Taylor issued arrest warrants for both defendants, and issued a no-contact order prohibiting Dameron from having any contact with the alleged victim. Judge Taylor set bond at \$15,000 for Dameron, and \$10,000 for Hale. Per Idaho Law, the arrest warrants and criminal cases were sealed until the warrants could be served and returned to the court.

Dameron surrendered himself to Madison County Sheriff's deputies on his warrant the night of Friday, October 27, 2023. Hale surrendered himself to deputies at the Jefferson County

¹ All criminal charges and their descriptions herein constitute mere allegations, and every fact described should be treated as an allegation. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.



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Jail the following morning, Saturday, October 28, 2023. Dameron and Hale have both posted bond.

Local Magistrate Judge Jason Walker, who would typically be assigned the Dameron and Hale criminal cases, voluntarily disqualified himself from both prosecutions. Jefferson and Madison County deputies returned the warrants to the courts today, Monday, October 30, 2023, which allowed court clerks to unseal the cases. Magistrate Judge Daniel Clark was assigned to both criminal cases. Dameron's case is CR41-23-0801. Hale's case is CR41-23-0802.

Teton County's insurer ICRMP retained outside employment counsel and an investigator to help TCSO carry out the internal investigations regarding each officer's conduct. The internal affairs investigator allowed the criminal investigations to proceed first in certain regards so as not to impede the criminal investigations. Now that the criminal investigations are concluded, it is anticipated that the internal investigations will be concluded within two weeks, and decisions regarding each officer's employment will be made accordingly.

For all inquiries regarding the criminal cases against Dameron and Hale, please contact Special Prosecutor Randy Neal at the Bonneville County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

Links:

Case filings in *State v. Dameron*, CR41-23-0801, and *State v. Hale*, CR41-23-0802, can be found on the iCourt Portal [here](#).