

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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August 17, 2011

**DESTIN MAN CHARGED WITH SPRAYING NEIGHBOR AND DOG WITH
CHEMICALS**



Jay Morton Hamilton

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has arrested a Destin man accused of spraying his neighbor and his neighbor's dog with chemicals during an argument August 15th.

63-year old Jay Morton Hamilton of 4128 Indian Bayou Drive is charged with battery causing bodily harm and animal cruelty.

Hamilton's neighbor, Larry Coppola of 4118 Burning Tree Drive, says he and Hamilton got into a verbal altercation around 2:15 August 15th after he saw Hamilton spray his dog, a chocolate Labrador Retriever, through the fence with a chemical sprayer.

As they argued Coppola says Hamilton then raised the wand and sprayed him in the face, causing excruciating pain in Coppola's face and eyes.

A deputy who responded to Coppola's home says there was a very strong odor of chemicals coming from Coppola and his dog. Coppola was treated at a local medical facility and is expected to fully recover. His dog was treated at a Destin Animal Hospital.

Hamilton denies spraying the chemicals at Coppola.

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the
Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal
opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ARREST REPORT

REPORT NO: OCSO11ARR008232

Jail Booking No 185437	Offense No OCSO11OFF008744	Other No OCSO11CAD115978	OBTS 4601083457
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[SUSPECT]

Last HAMILTON First JAY Middle MORTON Title Race W Sex M DOB 11/13/1947 Age 63 Hgt 5'07" Wgt 0
Eyes Hair MNI Number OCSO10MNI006401 SSN ID. No. H543433474130 St FL Type E OCA/Agency ID

Birth Location: City: CLEARWATER County: PINNELLAS State: FL Nation: UNITED STATES Citizenship: UNITED STATES

Address

4128 INDIAN BAYOU NORTH DESTIN FL 32541

Occupations (Current/Last Known is Listed First)

Business: RETIRED, Job Title: FAA INSPECTOR, Entered: 8/16/2011

Aliases (Last, First Middle Title DOB)

* none found in MNI *

Street Names

* none found in MNI *

[INCIDENT INFORMATION]

Occurred Date Range: 8/15/2011 14:15 to 8/15/2011 14:24 Lat / Long
 No. Di Street Apt/Lot City ST Zip (GEO)
 4118 BURNING TREE DRIV DESTIN FL 32541 3 - 25 - PG53 - U-41

[CHARGES]

784.03.1a2

BATTERY

CAUSE BODILY HARM

Counts	Level	Degree	GOC	UCR	NCIC	AON	Bond Amount
1	Misdemeanor	First	Not Applicable	130A		1319	

828.12.1

CONSERVATION-ANIMALS

TORMENT DEPRIVE MUTILATE KILL

Counts	Level	Degree	GOC	UCR	NCIC	AON	Bond Amount
1	Misdemeanor	First	Not Applicable	9000		6201	

[STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE / NARRATIVE]

On August 15, 2011 the defendant, Jay Morton Hamilton, was involved in a verbal altercation with his neighbor and victim, Larry Coppola. The verbal altercation began when Coppola observed the defendant spray his chocolate Labrador in the face and eyes through the wooden, shadow-box style fence with a chemical sprayer he was using to spray herbicides. The defendant then casually made his way over to Coppola as they were arguing and continued spraying the ground. As the defendant neared Coppola he quickly raised the wand of the chemical sprayer and sprayed the chemicals at Coppola's face. Coppola quickly went inside due to the excruciating pain in and around his eyes.

Coppola's daughter, Courtney Coppola, was outside and heard her father say, "I just watched you spray my dog!" She began walking towards her father and their dog when she observed a mist, which she believed to be the chemicals from the sprayer, come over the wooden privacy fence and strike her father in the face.

Coppola's wife, Agnes Coppola, was in the backyard during the verbal altercation but had turned to walk towards her daughter when Coppola was sprayed with the chemicals.

COPY

COPY

ARREST REPORT

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: **OCSO11ARR008232**

The defendant denied spraying Coppola or his dog but stated he was spraying herbicides with a chemical sprayer at the ground during the time of the incident. The defendant stated he may have lifted the nozzle of the sprayer up and over a nearby bush but he did not spray the chemicals directly at Coppola.

I observed severe redness to Coppola's face and eyes after the incident and he had a complaint of a burning pain mainly on his skin. There was a very strong odor of chemicals coming from Coppola and his dog. Fire department personnel stated Coppola was showing symptoms of chemical burns to his eyes and needed to go to the hospital immediately. Coppola was taken to the hospital by his wife and after treatment he was expected to fully recover.

The defendant unnecessarily tormented Coppola's dog by intentionally spraying the dog with the chemicals he claimed to be herbicide and caused unnecessary pain and suffering to the animal. Coppola's dog also showed signs and symptoms of chemical burns to the facial area according to Fire department personnel and the Airport Veterinary Hospital staff.

Based on my investigation which consisted of interviews with the victim, witnesses, and suspect, and observations of injuries to the victims, I have reason to believe the defendant, Jay Morton Hamilton, violated F.S.S. 784.03(1a2)-Battery-intentionally cause bodily harm to another person, and F.S.S. 828.12(1)-Cruelty to animals-unnecessarily torment. This offense occurred in Destin, Okaloosa County, Florida where I am a full time sworn Law Enforcement Officer.

I hereby swear (or affirm) that the facts established on this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature (Arresting Officer) _____ **MCCOY, RICHARD** Name **271** ID/SSN

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 17 day of August A.D., 2011 by _____ who is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

Signature _____ Notary Public _____ LEO _____ CO

Commission No: _____ My Commission Expires _____

[PHYSICAL EVIDENCE] [NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE LISTED]

[ARREST INFORMATION]

Arrested	Residency	Injured	Extent of Injury	Resist
8/16/2011	16:45	Within jurisdiction	None	N/A
		Arrested Prior	Arrest Jurisdiction	Alcohol
		Yes	Within country	Unknown
No.	Di	Street	A/L	City
107		STAHLMAN AVE		DESTIN
Arresting Officer			Unit	(GEO)
271	MCCOY, RICHARD		OCSO/FSV/EAST/AC/C-SHIFT/DES	3 - 25 - PG53 - U-41
Reporting Officer			Unit	Officer Type
271	MCCOY, RICHARD		OCSO/FSV/EAST/AC/C-SHIFT/DES	OCSO
Forward to for approval				Original Offense Jurisdiction
OCSO/FSV/EAST/AC/C-SHIFT/DES				OCSO

Bond Set by LEO at Time of Arrest & Booking: \$0.00

() None

COPY

COPY

ARREST REPORT

REPORT NO: OCSO11ARR008232

- ROR
- Cash
- Pro

Bond Set by Judge _____

- None
- Cash
- Any
- Pro
- PtIQ

- ROR/Sign
- PTR

Purge _____

SC _____

Return Court: COUNTY COURT: MISDEMEANC Date: 9/6/2011 Time: 13:00

Instructions: _____

[DISPOSITION]

<u>Disposition Type</u>	<u>Release Type</u>	<u>Other Desc</u>
<u>Release Date</u>	<u>Release Time</u>	<u>Release Officer</u>
		<u>Printed</u> <u>Printed By</u>
		No
<u>Released To</u>		

<u>Court DispositionType</u>	<u>Court Disposition Description</u>

[ADDITIONAL PERSONS]

COURT DISPOSITION: _____

(right index)

- No Bill / Petition
- Issue Warrant
- Prosecution Approved

Signature of Assistant State Attorney Date

COPY