

# Sheriff



**Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff**

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## **OCSO CHARGES MARY ESTHER MAN WITH CHILD NEGLECT**



A man who left a first grader alone during two work shifts this week has been charged with child neglect without great harm.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office was called to a home on Winfield Way in Mary Esther after the man's supervisor learned that a small child had been left without supervision. 34-year old Gerald Alexander Mitchell told deputies he left the child unattended on August 12<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup> while he worked twelve hour shifts each day. Deputies located two dozen swords and knives that were within the child's reach in the house, as well as a can of insect spray on the floor, and a container of an alcoholic beverage on a desk.

In addition, deputies learned there was no working telephone inside the residence for the youngster to use in case of an emergency.

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