



Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Margaret Mims, Sheriff
News Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Inmate Mistakenly Released From Jail.

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims is asking for the public's assistance in locating 37 year old William Ray Wheeler who was mistakenly released from custody Tuesday night.

Wheeler, a Fresno resident, was in custody at the Fresno County Main Jail on robbery charges.

Wheeler had been arrested by Fresno PD officers in February of 2006 after allegedly robbing a cab driver at gunpoint. Wheeler had been riding in the cab on the way to an appointment with his parole officer.

In subsequent court appearances, Wheeler was deemed to be incompetent to stand trial and was sent to Atascadero State Hospital for evaluation and treatment.

Wheeler was later found to be competent to stand trial and in February of 2007 was transferred back to the Fresno County Jail.

On June 12th, Wheeler appeared in Fresno Superior Court on two separate cases. After the court appearance, he was transported back to the jail.

At approximately 7:30pm, Wheeler was inadvertently released by correctional staff. The error was discovered at approximately 2:30am the following morning.

Sheriff's patrol units were immediately notified of Wheeler's release and started checking his known addresses.

Early indications reveal the cause of Wheeler's release to be human error in interpreting the court's paperwork. The release is not related to the jail's new "Offender Track" computer system that was recently installed.

Wheeler, AKA: "Mr. Dog" or "Dog", is described as an African American, 5-8, 165 to 200lbs, with black hair and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing a white T-shirt and white disposable jail jumpsuit. He has lived at various locations in Fresno with his most recent address being in the 400 block of E. Franklin Ave.

Although not on Megan's Law disclosure, Wheeler is a sexual registrant. He is known to be violent and should be considered armed and dangerous. He is currently wanted on a parole hold.

As of this time, several Sheriff Investigators are attempting to locate Wheeler. The Sheriff's Department is being assisted by officers from the Fresno PD, State Parole, and the Department of Justice's Sexual Predator Apprehension Team. Bulletins have also been released to all law enforcement.

If you see Wheeler, or have any information regarding his whereabouts, please contact the Fresno County Sheriff's Department at 488-3111, CrimeStoppers at 498-STOP(7867), or your local law enforcement agency.