



## McCook Police Department Media Release

### McCook Police Investigate Kidnapping

McCook, IL, January 1, 2021, - At 1:29 A.M., the McCook Police Department was notified by the Lyons Police Department that they received information that a female who was kidnapped in Liberty County, Texas, was in a motel room, number 5, at the Skyline Motel, 8136 W. Joliet Road, McCook.

After further investigation, it was learned from social media accounts and Liberty County Sheriffs, that Erika Rios Valdez, 32, was reported to have been kidnapped at gunpoint from Liberty County on December 29, 2020 by an acquaintance. It was also learned the acquaintance, identified as Abel Fajardo, was indeed the male who had checked into the Skyline motel.

McCook and Lyons officers went to the Skyline Motel and spoke to management who verified that a male and female were indeed staying in room number 5. Officers then contacted the male, identified as Abel Fajardo, who was detained after a brief struggle. Upon searching the room, a female was found in the closet, who was later identified as Erika Rios Valdez.

Erika Rios Valdez was transported to an area hospital for an evaluation and later released to McCook Police Department.

Illinois State Police Evidence Technicians were summoned to the scene to assist with evidence collection and processing. The investigation into this incident remains ongoing and further information will be provided when it becomes available.

McCook Police are still searching for the vehicle that Fajardo was driving, a white 2005 GMC 3500K 4-door pickup truck, with Illinois registration of 2816533B. The pickup has "DURAMAX" in large white bold letters across the rear window. A picture of the actual vehicle is available if needed.

The offender, Abel Fajardo, current address unknown, is being held on a full extradition warrant issued out of Liberty County Texas.

If you have information that could assist in the investigation, please contact the McCook Police Department at 708-447-1234.

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