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**Round Rock woman abandons two children but books dog into pet hotel, according to arrest warrant**

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Claire Osborn

May 07--ROUND ROCK -- An arrest warrant accuses a 29-year-old Round Rock woman of pampering her pets but abandoning her 8- and 10-year-old daughters before leaving the state.

Kristine Noffsinger was charged with two counts of abandoning a child after a child protective services investigator found that on April 18 that Noffsinger's children had been left home alone in the family's apartment on FM 1325 while Noffsinger went to St. Louis, the warrant said.

The arrest warrant does not mention the children's father or what Noffsinger's marital status is. Nor does it say how the investigator found out the children were alone. The children later told investigators that their mother had left April 17 for business or to visit family, the warrant said.

The children also said Noffsinger had placed the family dog, "Teddy," into a pet hotel while she was going to be gone, the warrant said.

The two girls were left behind to feed themselves, get to and from school, and to do their homework, according to the warrant.

"Both children stated they were afraid while alone," the warrant said. The girls said they had no relatives in Texas. They told authorities that their family lived in Illinois, where they had recently moved from, according to the warrant.

Child Protective Services took emergency custody of the children, the warrant said.

An investigator with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office tried to call Noffsinger at the phone number the children provided but she didn't answer or call back on April 18, the warrant said.

An investigator received a message from Noffsinger at 10:30 a.m. April 19 and called her back, according to the warrant. When they spoke, Noffsinger said she was at the St. Louis airport, the warrant said. Noffsinger told the investigator that she found out her children were not at home on April 18 after a friend had gone by the apartment and could not locate them, the warrant said. Noffsinger said she had received telephone calls from the sheriff's office but no messages had been left, the warrant said.

Noffsinger said she had not notified authorities that her children were missing because she thought they were just sleeping or playing outside, the warrant said. She said when she found out her children were not in school on April 19 she asked her friend to get the apartment unlocked, the warrant said.

The warrant said Noffsinger told authorities she had taken the family dog to a PetsMart pet hotel before leaving for St. Louis. It was unclear from the warrant why she went to St. Louis.

Jail records show Noffsinger was in the Williamson County jail Monday on $40,000 bail.