



Mount Vernon Police Department
Chief Justin Rutledge
311 College Ave.
Mount Vernon, Indiana 47620
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<https://www.mountvernonin.gov/police-department>

****PRESS RELEASE****
03/10/2025

**Large Quantity of Methamphetamine/Fentanyl
Mixture Located During Traffic Stop**

On March 10, 2025 at approximately 12:30am, while working an off-duty security detail, a Mount Vernon Police Officer initiated a traffic stop in the area of 9th Street and Main Street for failing to use a turn signal and having an obstructed license plate. The vehicle slowed down but continued driving, finally stopping north of 10th Street and Main Street. The driver and sole occupant of the vehicle was identified as 36-year-old Kelli Hale of Ridgway, Illinois. Kelli repeatedly reached around inside the vehicle after being asked not to several times by officers. Officers asked Kelli to exit the vehicle and upon her exiting, officers observed a bulge in Kelli's clothing that was cylindrical and had a bulb on the end like a smoking pipe. The object did turn out to be a pipe that had burnt residue inside it.

During a search of Kelli's vehicle, officers located a purse under the driver's seat that contained three bags of a white, crystal-like substance that tested positive for methamphetamine and fentanyl. The total weight of the suspected drugs was over 36 grams. Officers also located Schedule 4 pills in the cup holder of the vehicle and a box that previously contained a digital scale in the floorboard. Kelli was arrested and lodged at the Posey County Jail.

Thankfully no one was seriously injured or killed during this encounter, however very small amounts of fentanyl can be deadly. The Mount Vernon Police Department is committed to keeping our community safe, even in the face of grave danger. Officer Karlee Eickhoff is to be commended for her commitment to the safety of Mount Vernon's citizens. Even though she was working an off-duty detail designed to provide police presence, she showed great initiative by acting on her instincts and conducting a thorough investigation.

Case #: 25-000984
Arresting Officer: Officer Karlee Eickhoff
Assisting Officer(s): Sergeant Brandon Woodley
Officer Nick Stevens
Officer Chevy Wood

Photo and charges on page 2

****All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in court****



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**Kelli J. Hale 36 YOA
Ridgway, IL**

Charges:

- **Dealing in Methamphetamine – Level 3 Felony**
- **Possession of Methamphetamine – Level 3 Felony**
- **Possession of Narcotic Drug – Level 3 Felony**
- **Possession of Schedule IV Drug – Class A Misdemeanor**
- **Possession of Paraphernalia – Class C Misdemeanor**

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