

Brother and sister taken into custody by ISP after traffic violation

Written by George Browning

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A brother and sister from Austin were taken into custody by Indiana State Police working traffic on Interstate 65 on Thursday, February 14.

Christopher D. "Hippy" Stidham, 40, and Connie M. Stidham, 36, were transported to Clark County Jail in Jeffersonville after the car in which they were riding was stopped by an officer near the 23 mile marker just inside Clark County.

According to a news release, the ISP trooper with the Sellersburg post initiated the traffic stop just before 4 p.m. because the driver of the 2005 red Kia had committed a traffic infraction. During the stop, an ISP canine was called to the scene and made a positive "alert" on the car for a controlled substance inside the vehicle.

During a search of the Kia, troopers stated they found suspected heroin, paraphernalia and a hypodermic needle.

Christopher Stidham was preliminarily charged with possession of a Schedule 1 controlled substance, maintaining a common nuisance and possession of a syringe, all Class D felonies, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor. Connie Stidham was charged with two Class D felony counts of possession of a controlled substance, possession of a syringe, maintaining a common nuisance and possession of paraphernalia.