

## Search for stepdad accused of molesting child ends with arrest on May 23

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The search for a man who is accused of molesting his stepdaughter for a number of years ended with his arrest on Friday morning, May 23. Earl E. Hawkins III, 43, Scottsburg, had been sought by law enforcement agencies since a stand-off at his Belleview Avenue home occurred for most of the day on Thursday, May 22.

Sgt. Brian Hall and other Scottsburg police officers as well as sheriff's deputies and Indiana State Police went to the home that morning to talk to Hawkins, then described as "...a man with a gun who may be suicidal or homicidal," according to the probable cause affidavit.

The document also related that Hawkins' wife said she and Hawkins had gotten into a fight that morning. She said she had discovered her 13-year-old daughter was pregnant, and the child said Hawkins was the father.

Hawkins denied fathering a child by the girl, the wife went on, but he then grabbed a gun, loaded it and went into a bedroom, shutting the door.

The wife said she tried to talk to her husband, but he told her "It is over."

The young teen was interviewed by a staff member of the Department of Child Services. In that interview, the girl said her stepfather had been molesting her since she was seven years old.

The last such incident was on May 19, the girl stated.

Officers remained at the perimeter of the home until about 3:30 p.m., when it was determined that Hawkins had somehow left the residence.

He had been sought on a warrant for two counts of child molesting, one A felony and one C felony, since that time.

Hawkins was expected to have an initial hearing in Scott Circuit Court on Tuesday, May 27. His bail has been set at \$100,000 corporate surety bond or \$20,000 cash.