



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arrests – Conspiracy Concealing Death of a Person

July 13, 2016

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On 4/11/2016, Patrol Officers from the Normal Police Department responded to an address in the 1400 block of E. College Avenue in Normal with a report of an unresponsive female. Upon arrival our officers and paramedics from the Normal Fire Department found a deceased female juvenile, age 17. The McLean County Coroner's Office responded to the scene and an investigation was conducted into the death of the female by the Normal Police Department.

On 07/12/16, Detectives from the Normal Police Department arrested Braxton J. Smith, an 18-year-old male from Normal, and Cheonte R.D. Hinkle, a 21-year-old male from East Peoria. Both arrests stem from an investigation into their actions following the victim's death. This investigation was conducted in cooperation with the McLean County State's Attorney and the McLean County Coroner's Office. Based on the age of the victim the Normal Police Department will not release additional information concerning this case.

Smith and Hinkle are currently being held at the McLean County Jail in lieu of \$5,000 cash bond on the following charges:

CNT 1 - Conspiracy- CONCEAL DEATH OF PERSON
CNT 2 - Conspiracy- CONCEAL DEATH OF PERSON

The Normal Police Department wishes to remind the public that Illinois Statute, 720 ILCS 570/414 provides for immunity when a person takes any "good faith effort" to seek emergency medical help, whether that is calling 911 or taking an overdose victim to an emergency room to seek medical attention. The key to saving a life from an overdose is to get professional medical care through the quickest means possible, which is calling 911. Do not compound a potentially tragic situation by not taking appropriate action or rendering care.

***** All suspects are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law *****