

# Eddie Cathey

## Sheriff of Union County

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### ***NEWS RELEASE***

December 22, 2015

For Immediate Release

#### **Brunswick County woman arrested in local heroin death investigation**

A 24 year old Brunswick County (NC) woman has been arrested and charged with one count of Involuntary Manslaughter for a heroin related death that occurred in Union County during the summer of 2015. Kristin Ann Lea, of 3707 Cinnamon Fern Drive in Southport NC, was arrested in New Hanover County on Friday, 12-18-2015.

On 6-20-2015, Justin Blake Tarlton, 25, was found deceased in his home on Sierra Chase Drive in western Union County. The subsequent investigation, which involved Detectives with the Union County Sheriff's Office and the Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner's Office, revealed that Mr Tarlton died as a result of a heroin overdose. During the investigation, Detectives developed evidence that Miss Lea supplied the lethal heroin that took Mr Tarlton's life. The Union County Sheriff's Office consulted with the District Attorney's Office and it was determined that charges were warranted. On December 2nd, 2015, warrants for Miss Lea were obtained for one count of Involuntary Manslaughter and one count of Selling Heroin. Miss Lea was located by the Wilmington Police Department on 12-18-15 and was taken into custody without incident then transported to the New Hanover County Jail.

On the evening of 12-21-2015, Union County Detectives transported Miss Lea from the New Hanover County Jail to the Union County Jail where she remains under a \$215,000 bond. Miss Lea has an initial court date in Union County District Court on 1-5-2016.



Point of contact for this press release is Lieutenant Brian Helms, 704-283-3722.

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Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

**Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789**

Or

**Union County Crimestoppers at 704-283-5600**

