

Second Arrest in Identity Fraud Case

(KNZA)---A second arrest has been made in connection with a Brown County identity fraud and phone harassment case.

22-year-old Amanda Gundersen, of Hiawatha, made her first appearance in a Brown County courtroom Monday on two felony counts of aiding and abetting identity fraud and one misdemeanor count of aiding and abetting telephone harassment. Attorney Judd Herbster, of Sabetha, was appointed to represent Gundersen and a preliminary hearing was set for Wednesday.

Gundersen was arrested Friday following an investigation by the Brown County Sheriff's Department. She is currently free on a \$15,000 O.R. bond.

Gundersen is accused of aiding and abetting 23-year-old Molly Smith, of Troy, who was arrested earlier this month on charges of identity fraud, criminal threat and harassment by telephone.

Smith is accused of assuming a fake identity in order to text various individuals in the Hiawatha area and provide them with misinformation. Brown County Attorney Kevin Hill says the alleged victims in the case have ties to the Hiawatha Community Hospital where Smith worked as a records clerk at the time of her arrest. Gundersen also previously worked at the hospital.

A preliminary hearing for Smith, who is currently free on \$50,000 bond, is scheduled for December 18th.

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