

Hiawatha man charged with alleged sex, drug offenses

(KNZA)--A Hiawatha man has been charged with alleged sex and drug offenses.

Brown County Attorney Kevin Hill filed a criminal complaint Tuesday in Brown County District Court charging 48-year-old Jeremy Stover with eight counts--including three felony counts of promoting the sale of sexual relations, three misdemeanor counts of sexual battery, a felony count of distribution of opiate and a misdemeanor count of possession of a depressant drug (Lorazepam).

Stover, who serves as President and CEO of Hiawatha-based Freedom Hospice, made his first appearance in a Brown County courtroom Tuesday afternoon on the charges.

He was arrested Saturday night following an investigation by the Brown County Sheriff's Office.

Brown County Sheriff John Merchant, in a release, said the arrest followed the execution of multiple search warrants over the weekend involving digital media and social media platforms.

Merchant said many hours were spent by the sheriff's office and Brown County attorney on the investigation, which remains ongoing.

A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for March 8.

Atchison attorney John Kurth was appointed by the court to represent Stover.

Stover remains free on a \$50,000 bond

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