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NEWS RELEASE

**MAN CHARGED FOR SEXUALLY ASSAULTING A
VULNERABLE ADULT IN BURNSVILLE**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that Geoffrey Edward Florance, age 26 of St. Paul, has been charged* with one count each of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree, Assault in the Third Degree and Criminal Abuse of a Vulnerable Adult by a Caregiver (Resulting in Substantial Bodily Harm) in connection with a sexual assault on an 18-year-old female resident at a Burnsville licensed foster care facility. Florance was employed at this facility and the assault is alleged to have occurred during the early morning hours of March 27, 2012.

Additional facts pertaining to this case can be found in the criminal complaint at <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/ComplaintSearch>. While in custody, a mug shot of the defendant may be viewed at <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/InmateSearch>.

Backstrom commented: "The abuse of a vulnerable adult at a licensed care facility under the circumstances alleged in this criminal complaint is extremely disturbing."

Backstrom thanked the Burnsville Police Department who assisted in this case for their quick and thorough investigation.

Florance made his first appearance in court today. No bail was set pending a hearing on Monday, April 2, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in Hastings.

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.

**Criminal charges are not evidence of guilt. A defendant/suspect is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*