

NATION-WORLD

Alleged kidnap victim charged with lying

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DUBLIN Ga. -- An Alabama woman who told the world a traveling horror story of kidnapping and violence now is facing a criminal charge for giving authorities false information and even her family is questioning her credibility.

Laurens County investigators took out a warrant yesterday against the woman who identified herself as Katina Shaddix. Her maiden name according to investigators is Rhonda Lee Pate of Anniston Ala. She said her real name by a previous marriage is Rhonda Shaddix. They also learned she is 37 not 24 as she had claimed.

She was charged with giving false information to an officer a misdemeanor. Shaddix turned herself in at the sheriff's department and was released on \$1500 bond.

Sheriff's Sgt. Gerald Frazier said Shaddix admitted she lied about her name but he declined to say if she gave a reason. She was fingerprinted Thursday night to confirm the identity and no criminal history was found.

She was escorted to the sheriff's office by two workers at a battered women's shelter where she is staying and they refused to allow her to be interviewed.

Wednesday she went on two national television shows to tell her story but covered her face from photographers yesterday.

Shaddix claimed Shannon E. Jones 36 of Delhi N.Y. beat her severely and held her against her will for six months as they traveled along the East Coast in his tractor-trailer. She said Jones was her boyfriend at one time but she has tried to get away from him since he became abusive six months ago.

Jones was arrested last Saturday in Laurens County after Shaddix scrawled a help message on a bathroom wall in Tennessee and a deputy used clues in the message to track down the truck.

Shaddix's face was bruised when deputies arrested Jones and she spent three days in Fairview Park Hospital.

Shaddix claimed she had no family but she actually has a sister two brothers a mother and two daughters according to her sister Diana Combs of Anniston.

Combs said she raised Shaddix's two daughters now 16 and 19 and she does not allow Shaddix in her house because of her troubled past.

"My sister is a habitual liar" said Combs. "She always has been and she always will be."

"I love her but she needs help" Combs said.

She didn't hear about the alleged kidnapping until she saw a story about it on television and she said Shaddix's daughters were hurt when she claimed she had no family.

Combs does not dispute the beating allegation but she said she doubts Jones kidnapped her. She told the FBI she met with Shaddix in Birmingham Ala. in December and her sister was not with Jones. She said she hadn't heard of Jones until she saw the news report.

Anniston Police Chief Wayne Chandler said he has never heard of Shaddix. He did a computer search using both names and said there was no record of her having been arrested by the department.

Combs said Shaddix has been married twice once as a Butler and once as a Shaddix. She did not know where the name "Katina" came from but she said Shaddix once insisted on being called "Kitten."

Jones' mother Wanda Jones lives in Delhi. She declined comment when reached by phone yesterday.

Jones is being held in the Laurens County jail on \$50000 bond on charges of kidnapping and aggravated assault. Frazier said the charge against Shaddix will have no bearing on the charges against Jones.

Lisa Jones a beautician in Delhi who said she is distantly related to Jones by marriage also questioned the kidnapping charge. She said Thursday that Shaddix came into her shop without Jones two weeks ago to use a tanning bed. She said Jones might have beaten Shaddix but there was "no way" he is guilty of kidnapping.

Lisa Jones told her story to Laurens County authorities but Frazier said his investigation yielded sufficient evidence to support the kidnapping charge. Under Georgia law even if a person is held involuntarily for only an instant it could constitute kidnapping.

Shaddix was interviewed by an FBI agent Thursday but Frazier said there would be no federal charges against either she or Jones.

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<https://www.southcoasttoday.com/story/news/nation-world/2002/04/27/alleged-kidnap-victim-charged-with/50455892007/>