



# CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## PRESS RELEASE

530-897-4900

---

**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** Arrest Made in Attempt Murder, Arson Investigation

**LOCATION OF INCIDENT:** 100 block of Losse Way

**DATE/TIME OCCURRED:** 2/18/15, 0330 Hours

**INCIDENT CASE NUMBER:** 15-1015

**VICTIM:** Name Withheld

**SUSPECT:** William James Brainard, DOB: 4-15-56, Orangevale, CA.

**NARRATIVE:**

On 2-18-15, the Chico Fire Department responded to a structure fire in the 100 Block of Losse Way, Chico. After extinguishing the fire, which was located at the front portion of the residence, an incendiary device was located. The fire was immediately ruled as arson and the Chico Police Department responded. The investigation was led by the Chico Police Detective Bureau, with the assistance of Arson Investigators from the Chico Fire Department, as well as the California Department of Justice.

During the investigation, it was learned that the resident on Losse Way was involved in a heated custody battle over his 4 year old son. The father had recently received full custody of the child after a custody hearing in Sacramento County. The incendiary device had been set at the front of the residence, under the child's bedroom window and ignited, causing major damage to the structure. The detectives began interviewing the child's mother, who resided in Citrus Heights, in Sacramento County. It was during this point in the investigation that William Brainard became a viable suspect in the case.

Over the course of the next two months, Chico Police Detectives executed over five search warrants in Sacramento, Contra Costa, and Butte Counties. Physical evidence linking Brainard to the crime was obtained. In addition, Detectives located surveillance video from a home improvement store in Orangevale where Brainard was seen purchasing items used to construct the incendiary device. This occurred on the day of the arson.

**Supervisor:**

**Watch Commander:** Lt. Mike Nelson

**Prepared By:** Sgt. Matt Madden

**Date/Time:** 5-5-15, 1500

# CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## *PRESS RELEASE*

530-897-4900

**With this newly obtained information, Detectives obtained a warrant for Brainard's arrest.**

**On 5-4-15, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office located Brainard at his home at 6653 Big Chief Court, Orangevale, and arrested him. He was transported to the Sacramento County Jail.**

**On 5-5-15, William Brainard was transported from Sacramento County Jail to Butte County Jail, where he faces attempted murder charges, as well as the arson charge. His bail was set at 1.3 million dollars.**

**At this point in the investigation, it is believed that Brainard's target was in fact the child. As far as motive, Brainard had been involved in a relationship with the child's mother. It is believed that Brainard targeted the child in order to retaliate against the mother for their failed relationship.**

**The family's safety had been monitored by the Chico Police Department during this investigation to assure that Brainard was not able to commit any more criminal acts against the family or child.**

**Anyone with additional information is asked to contact the Chico Police Department Detective Bureau at (530) 897-5820.**

**Supervisor:**

**Watch Commander: Lt. Mike Nelson**

**Prepared By: Sgt. Matt Madden**

**Date/Time: 5-5-15, 1500**