



# HARRISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

TROY J. PETERSON  
SHERIFF

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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**For Immediate Release**

On Tuesday, September 26, 2017, Sheriff Troy Peterson announced the arrest of 45 year old Ernest Eugene Leffew who is currently homeless on felony charges of Kidnapping and Armed Robbery

According to Sheriff Troy Peterson, on Monday, September 25, 2017 Harrison County Deputies responded to a report of a kidnapping at the Legacy Inn located at 9265 Canal Road in Gulfport, MS. Deputies located a Victim who stated that he met a white male later identified as Leffew, outside a church asking for a ride. The victim stated that he gave Leffew a ride, at which time Leffew produced a knife and demanded the victim's wallet. The victim stated that Leffew forced him to drive around to several ATM's and made the victim withdraw money. The victim stated that Leffew then forced him to drive to the Legacy Inn where Leffew took the victim to a room, tied the victim up and then left in the victim's truck. The victim stated that after a couple of hours he was able to untie himself and call for help. Investigators were able to identify a female who had been at the Legacy Inn where Leffew had taken the victim which led Investigators to eventually identify Leffew as the suspect. Deputies located Leffew near the Cross Roads Mall at a homeless camp where he was arrested.

Ernest Leffew was booked into the Harrison County Adult Detention Facility and charged with Kidnapping and Armed Robbery. Ernest Leffew is being held with no bond set by Justice Court Judge Brandon Ladner after probation warrants were served on him for a previous felony shoplifting and embezzlement charge.

Investigative Officer: Investigator Jason Walker

Arresting Officer(s): Deputy Christina Walters

Approved For Release: \_\_\_\_\_

Troy J. Peterson, Sheriff, Harrison County, Mississippi