



Greene County Sheriff's Office PRESS RELEASE

**Date: 6 Jan. 2011
From: Sheriff Jim Arnott
To: All media outlets**

The Greene County Sheriff's announces the filing of formal charges against a Stone County man who was being investigated for fraud and stealing by deceit. Eric E. Hutchings, (44 yrs. old) is charged with 4 counts of Felony Stealing and one count of Misdemeanor Stealing in relation to his home improvement construction business he has been advertising on Craigslist. Area law enforcement and the Better Business Bureau have received numerous complaints from citizens who answered Hutchings' on-line advertisement and made down payments for contracted services. Hutchings is accused of defrauding his customers by accepting payments and then willfully refusing to fulfill the contract by providing the contracted building services. Hutchings advertised and operated with at least 3 different business names, including: H+W Portable Buildings, Custom Outdoor Products, and Hutchings Construction.

The felony warrant issued today by the Greene County Prosecutor's Office deals only with 5 of these cases reported here in Greene County. There may be additional cases yet to be reported in other counties. Hutchings was arrested on 01/07/11 and is currently held in the Greene County Jail on \$15,000 bond. Anyone who has been defrauded by Hutchings can contact the Greene County Sheriff's Office at 417-829-6414.

For further questions, contact Sheriff Jim Arnott at 417-868-4040.



Eric E. Hutchings Dec. 2010 photo