



March 31, 2020

Joe Moylan, PIO  
Weld County Sheriff's Office  
(970) 400-2809, Desk  
(970) 400-2802, PIO line  
[jmoylan@weldgov.com](mailto:jmoylan@weldgov.com)

### **Weld County law enforcement team up to find missing boy**

A 14-year-old Weld County boy who ran away from home over the weekend was found Monday night at a hotel in Evans.

Aaron Faulkner ran away about 8:30 a.m. Sunday from his home in the 11500 block of Colo. 392, which is about three miles east of Windsor. He stole a 2010 red Honda ATV when he left the property.

Aaron was found about 9 p.m. Monday by Evans police at the Heritage Inn, 3301 W. Service Road.

During the investigation, deputies learned Aaron was living with an uncle and ran away in attempt to go live with his biological mother in Greeley. It is believed Aaron spent Sunday night at a friend's house before being picked up Monday morning by his stepfather, Vance Grafel, 37, of Greeley.

Weld County Sheriff's Office deputies spent all day Monday searching for Aaron. The first break came when deputies located the Honda ATV in a field near the intersection of 35th Avenue and O Street in Greeley. The sheriff's office responded to the intersection after receiving tips from the community.

Law enforcement then began digitally tracking Grafel and contacted him at the Heritage Inn. Although Aaron wasn't there at the time, Grafel told police he wasn't going to allow his stepson to return to his uncle's house and he wasn't going to let anyone know his location.

**- MORE -**



Grafel was subsequently arrested and booked into the Weld County Jail on suspicion of one count each of second-degree kidnapping, harboring a minor and obstructing government operations.

Evans police found Aaron when they returned to the Heritage Inn Monday night.

Anyone who thinks they might have additional information about this case is asked to call Det. Jeff Meadows at (970) 400-2854.

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is asked to call the Weld County Sheriff's Office at (970) 356-4015 or Northern Colorado Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-TIPS (8477)**. **Tips can also be submitted through the Crime Stoppers website at [www.crimeshurt.com](http://www.crimeshurt.com). Those submitting tips through Crime Stoppers that lead to the arrest and filing of charges on a suspect(s) may be eligible for a cash reward.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Reams'.

Steve Reams – Sheriff