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3 accused child molesters disappear before court dates

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Kenneth Dustin Grant was scheduled to go on trial in Forsyth County on Sept. 20 for charges he sexually assaulted a relative's 15-year-old daughter.

But on Sept. 18, two days before the trial was to begin, Grant cut off his electronic ankle monitor, tossed it into Lake Lanier and disappeared.

Prosecutors, his attorney and the girl realized he was gone when he didn't show up for court.

He's still missing.

This isn't the only time an accused child molester has cut off an ankle monitor and skipped town, CBS Atlanta is reporting.

Last week, Charles Brantley failed to appear in court on child molestation charges and is now missing, Forsyth County District Attorney Penny Penn told CBS Atlanta.

Marcus Tillman did the same in March 2009, CBS Atlanta said. He was still convicted of child molestation and sentenced to 40 years in prison even though he was not in court, the news station said.

Grant, 42, has been missing almost three weeks. He was indicted Oct. 5 a year ago. He was released on Jan. 7 after posting a \$75,000 bond. He also was put on house arrest but allowed to leave to report to pretrial services or court or to see his attorney. Those conditions were to be guaranteed by the ankle monitor.

The person who was the contact for the monitoring company had gone on vacation to Disney World, prosecutors said. There was no one assigned to take calls from the monitoring company if an alert was sent.

"I had warned them that this could happen," Chief Assistant District Attorney Sandra Partridge said of Grant's escape. "I felt frustrated and angry that he absconded, and I was sad for the victim and her family."

Partridge had told the family after a court hearing two months ago that she expected Grant to run.

Forsyth District Attorney Penny Penn said the breakdown was between the monitoring company and the court's pretrial services.

"The person who was at Disney World is the director of pretrial services, Jaime Tavenier," Penn said. "He doesn't work for the monitoring company. They notify him when there's an issue."

Tavenier declined to comment because there is an investigation into what happened. He confirmed, however, that Grant "absconded on September, 18, 2010." He declined to provide the name of the monitoring company. "I cannot release that information at this time," Tavenier said in an e-mail.

Other court officers said they did not know which monitoring company had the contract, referring that question to Tavenier.

All the while, a bench warrant has been issued and the U.S. Marshal's Service also is looking for Grant, known to his friends as Dustin.

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