

On Friday, July 10, 2020, Rollinsford police officers responded to the marital home of Ronald and Sarah Letendre for a 911 call for help.

Officers conducted an investigation. During the investigation, Sarah admitted to taking the first aggressive action by trying to stop Ronald from calling for help. Based on the totality of the circumstances, officers determined that Sarah Letendre was the “predominant physical aggressor”, a term used by the New Hampshire Attorney General to guide decisions to arrest in cases of domestic violence.

Though Sarah resisted arrest and appeared to attempt self-harm; she was safely taken into custody. Once arrest processing was complete, Sarah was taken to Wentworth Douglass Hospital for assessment.

Sarah was given a court ordered Emergency Protection Order prohibiting her from contact with Ronald. After being served, Sarah violated the court’s order by sending repeated text messages to Ronald and returning to the residence. Ronald called police.

Shortly after Ronald’s call, police stopped Sarah’s car on Portland Avenue in Rollinsford. Sarah refused to get out of the car; with an officer leaning into her car, she drove away. The officer was uninjured. Five days later, Sarah surrendered herself at the Rollinsford Police Department where she was arrested with a warrant for multiple criminal offences.

Though a complete list of specific observations is noted within the following report, MRI generally found:

- The investigation of domestic violence and ensuing arrests of Sarah Letendre were consistent with New Hampshire state laws, New Hampshire Attorney General Domestic Violence Protocol, and the written directives of the Rollinsford Police Department.
- The investigation of domestic violence and ensuing arrest of Sarah Letendre was not influenced by external factors associated with the involved officers
- The policies of the Rollinsford Police Department governing investigation of domestic violence give necessary guidance to officers and are consistent with the recommendations found in the New Hampshire Attorney General Domestic Violence Protocol and associated state laws