



Carteret County Sheriff's Office

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NEWS RELEASE

Man arrested after shooting his father-in-law

On 12/31/2011 Carteret County Deputies arrested Stephen Eric Starnes, 43, of West Firetower Road, Pelletier, for shooting his father-in-law in the leg.

Carteret County Deputies were dispatched to West Firetower Road, Pelletier, to investigate a report of an individual who had been shot. The investigation revealed that Stephen Eric Starnes and his wife had been involved in a verbal argument. Mrs. Starnes called her father to come pick her up. When the victim arrived he was carrying a .22 caliber revolver. Mr. Starnes became alarmed by the .22 caliber revolver. Mr. Starnes and the victim struggled over the .22 caliber revolver. Mr. Starnes gained control of the .22 caliber revolver and fired a single shot striking the victim in the leg. While charges have been filed Deputies continue to investigate.

The victim was transported to Carteret General Hospital by Western Carteret Fire and EMS for treatment of the injury he sustained as a result of the gunshot wound. The injury does not appear to be life threatening.

Stephen Eric Starnes was charged with one count of "Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury." Stephen Eric Starnes was booked into the Carteret County Jail under a \$10,000.00 bond and his next court appearance has been scheduled for January 03, 2012.

For further information, please contact Detective Lieutenant Michael A. Panzarella at (252) 504-4804.