

**Contact: Lt. Vincent Schaan**  
Chino Valley Police Department  
(928) 636-4223 X 1279  
FAX (928) 636-1972

1950 Voss Dr., #301  
Chino Valley, Arizona  
86323  
Twitter @CVPDAZ

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **DRUG HALLUCINATIONS RESULT IN AGG ASSAULT AND WEAPON CHARGES**

On February 7, 2017 at approx. 9:40 pm Chino Valley Police responded to a report of a male subject having hallucinations and needing to be taken to the hospital for evaluation.

Prior to Chino Valley Officers arriving the male subject, 34 year old Chino Valley resident Benjamin Lasater, left the residence in his vehicle. While Police were gathering information a young child handed an officer some shell casings and stated his father, Benjamin, had been shooting a firearm in the house.

After the information was relayed, from the child to the police, the mother reluctantly confirmed that a shooting did occur inside the residence. Investigation of the scene that evening and into the next day revealed at least 3 rounds were fired inside the residence. The weapon used was a handgun. The rounds were recovered and information indicates all rounds were fired in a bedroom that was occupied by the suspect, Benjamin Lasater, and a 3 year old child. The child escaped the incident without any physical injuries, although 1 round fired from the firearm did land inches from the bed the child was asleep on.

Benjamin Lasater was located several hours after the incident as he was returning to his residence. Chino Valley Police arrested Benjamin on a traffic stop without any further incident. When arrested Chino Valley Police located a firearm and methamphetamine and additional weapons were located inside the residence during a search. A check of Benjamin Lasater's criminal history revealed he is not allowed to possess firearms due to multiple prior felony convictions including offenses involving weapons.

Benjamin was arrested and booked into Yavapai County Jail on charges including Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Endangerment, Possession of Dangerous Drug, and weapon offenses.

The matter has been forwarded to the Yavapai County Attorney's Office for review and additional charges may be filed once the investigation is complete. In addition to Chino Valley Police the Department of Child Services were notified and involved in the investigation.