

POLICE SEEK ESCAPED FELON

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State police searched Friday for a felon they believe kidnapped a prison employe and escaped from the Center for Forensic Psychiatry near Ann Arbor.

Officials said **William Scott Day**, 35, of Lansing, a convicted kidnapper with a history of prison escapes, was discovered missing Thursday morning. Also missing was Thomas Fortunato, 36, a forensic ward supervisor from Lakeland.

"We have no reason to believe he (Fortunato) is not a kidnap victim," said Lt. Thomas Finco of the State Police post in Ypsilanti.

Finco said Fortunato requested that a series of electronic locks be opened about 5:45 a.m. Thursday as he was making his rounds.

"That was the last he was heard from," Finco said. "He was missing at the end of his shift at 7:30 a.m. and his family and friends have neither seen him nor heard from him since."

Day was discovered missing at 7:15 a.m. during a bed check.

Fortunato's dark blue 1987 Dodge Ram pickup truck and a medium blue 1986 Buick Skylark with Ohio license plates that Fortunato had access to were missing, Finco said. The truck has Michigan license plate KU4779 and the Buick is a rental with Ohio license plate 875MWS.

Day was serving five to seven years at the State Prison of Southern Michigan at Jackson for several felonies, including kidnapping, carrying a concealed weapon and prison escape.

On May 22, **Day** was transferred from Jackson to the forensic center on the grounds of the Ypsilanti Regional Psychiatric Hospital in York Township.

Day kidnapped a cab driver after a 1977 escape from the trusty division at the Jackson prison, police said. After escaping in September 1985 from Camp Tuscola in Caro, **Day** accosted an elderly lady, tied her to a tree and stole her car, said a state Corrections Department official.

CUTLINE

Day

Fortunato

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