

WORKER FACES CHARGE HE HELPED FELON ESCAPE

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Thomas Fortunato, a **worker** at Ypsilanti's Center for Forensic Psychiatry, was charged Friday with helping convicted **felon** William Day **escape** from the facility last week.

Fortunato was arraigned in Ann Arbor District Court on a **charge** of aiding and abetting Day, a felony that carries a maximum sentence of seven years in prison.

He was released after posting 10 percent of a \$25,000 bond set by Judge Thomas Shea, who scheduled a preliminary examination for Dec. 24.

Michigan State Police called Fortunato after obtaining a warrant for his arrest from the Washtenaw County prosecutor Friday morning and **he** turned himself in at the Ypsilanti post, said Lt. Thomas Finco.

State police and FBI investigators originally believed Fortunato, 36, of Lakeland, had been kidnapped by Day, 35, on Dec. 4, when the two were discovered missing about 7 a.m.

But Fortunato, picked up by FBI agents Wednesday in Florida after living for at least four days in shelters for the homeless, admitted helping Day **escape**, officials said.

Finco said Friday that investigators hadn't established a motive but said Fortunato had told them " **He** was bored. Tired of the life-style **he** was leading up here. **He** was going to do something different."

William Meyer, director of the Center of Forensic Psychiatry, was not available for comment.

Meyer has said Fortunato reportedly had an unblemished 14- year record at the center.

An investigation found Day escaped while hidden in a laundry basket, which was pushed out to a waiting pickup truck owned by Fortunato, the FBI said. Before the **escape**, investigators said, Fortunato withdrew \$5,000 from a personal trust account.

Department of Corrections records show Day had broken out of prison three other times while serving seven sentences for various felonies, including attempted rape and kidnapping, since 1969.

Day is still at large.

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