

Jeremy Wayne Darnell, 33, Lebanon was arrested Friday for the kidnapping case of a teenage girl in Providence Marketplace.

“We are humbled and grateful to hear that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) made an arrest in our 2011 kidnapping case that occurred in Providence MarketPlace. The TBI plays a vital role in ensuring Tennessee’s criminals do not escape,” stated Police Chief James Hambrick. “This case is closed, and our community is safer because of the TBI’s efforts.”

On Aug. 5, 2011, Darnell forced a 14-year-old girl into the passenger side seat of his truck in the Providence Marketplace parking lot. As reported in 2011, the girl was standing outside the cars of two other females, an 18-year-old and a 16-year-old outside Rack Room Shoes when the suspect approached with a weapon in his hand and attempted to force the 14-year-old into the 16-year-old’s vehicle. The 18-year-old drove away when she witnessed the incident. The 16-year-old rolled up her window, and the suspect grabbed the 14-year-old. He forced her into front passenger seat of his vehicle. She was able to escape when he walked around to the driver’s seat. The suspect left the area, and the victim ran away.

The 16-year-old was able to flag down a Mt. Juliet police officer in the shopping center to report the crime. The Mt. Juliet Police Department, the Wilson County Sheriff’s Department and Tennessee Highway Patrol immediately responded to the area to look for the suspect, but he was not located.

Thursday, TBI received information identifying Darnell as the abductor. The eyewitnesses have positively identified him as responsible for the incident. At the time of the abduction, law enforcement believed that the Providence Marketplace incident was linked to an attempted kidnapping of another teenage girl at the Walmart in Clarksville in July 2011. In light of new information, it is not believed the two incidents are related.

Darnell was booked into the Wilson County Jail this Friday.