

## Wilkes Couple Victim of Fake Baby Fraud

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An eastern NC woman has been arrested on suspicion of scamming a Wilkes County couple out of money after offering a child for adoption—a child she didn't have. Heather Dawn Taylor, 37, faces 10 total counts of obtaining property by false pretense after allegedly falsely claiming she was pregnant and was seeking someone to adopt her child. The Farmville woman is alleged to have obtained more than \$1,500 from two couples—one couple from Wilkes County, another from Illinois, leading them on an "emotional rollercoaster" for several months. WXII TV said that the couples had responded to Taylor's Craigslist ad seeking parents wanting to adopt, and that Taylor contacted the couples claiming she was pregnant. Pitt authorities say Taylor not only faked being pregnant but also faked being in labor while on the phone with one of the victims, deputies told the TV station. Taylor also told the couples she needed money for medical, food and travel expenses—all fake, deputies said. The alleged scam was first reported in April, and Taylor was arrested Tuesday and held under a \$75,000 secured bond in the Pitt County Jail.