

# Local man faces charge for arson

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Police say suspect tried to keep young granddaughter in home where he started fire

By **BOB WATSON**  
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Cole County Circuit Judge Thomas J. Brown III set a \$50,000 bond Saturday for a Jefferson City man charged with causing the fire that damaged his kitchen, at 1617 St. Mary's Blvd., Friday evening.

Prosecutors also charged Monroe Crumble Jr., 62, with endangering the welfare of a child and domestic assault.

Police said Crumble and his wife, 50, had a fight that resulted in minor injuries to the wife.

According to a police probable cause statement, the wife said the couple "had been in an argument and he set a T-shirt on the stove and turned the burner on causing the T-shirt to burn."

The couple's 4- and 6-year-old granddaughters were in the home at the time — about 8:15 p.m. Friday — the woman said.

The woman left the house with the 4 year-old, but told police, according to the probable cause statement: "Monroe Crumble physically restrained the 6 year-old ... from leaving the burning house."

Prosecutor Bill Tackett said Saturday there is "no indication that alcohol was a factor" in the incident, based on the police reports he reviewed before filing the charges.

He said police are continuing to investigate the case, and other charges might be possible.

If convicted of the arson charge, a Class B felony, Crumble could be sentenced to a prison term ranging from five to 15 years.

The child endangerment charge is a Class C felony, carrying a punishment not to exceed seven years in prison.

The domestic violence charge is a misdemeanor.

Police said firefighters extinguished the fire.  
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