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# RICHARD C. PFEIFFER, JR.

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## Columbus City Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *'Downton Abbey Addict' Arrested*

*Ex-con brought into custody after weeks on the run*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—The Central Ohio man who gained international notoriety as the “*Downton Abbey Addict*” due to his predilection for stealing DVD and Blu-ray box sets of the popular British drama has been arrested and taken into custody, Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced today.

Thirty-year-old Branden Joseph Deel apparently was living a life on the run about as far removed from the stately grounds of Highclere Castle—the real-life Hampshire, England estate that serves as the main filming location for *Downton Abbey*—as could be imagined following the City Attorney’s office naming him [\*Fugitive of the Week\*](#) on November 12, 2015.

Deel declared on a recent social media post [repeated verbatim]: “iam in Columbus carless, homeless, staying in a abandoned house, sleeping on the floor, no blanket, i aint ate in days, i know i [expletive] up and did some really dumb [expletive] but...i need a shower and food.”

Upper Arlington police arrested Deel on Thursday, December 17, 2015. He remains in jail and is scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow morning.

Deel’s *Downton Abbey* disc binge began on January 1, 2014, when he stole 12 DVD box sets worth a total retail value of \$560.88, launching a two-year crime spree that seems to have been interrupted only by intermittent periods of incarceration.

After serving roughly two months in the Delaware County jail in early 2015, Deel was released and continued stealing DVDs until being incarcerated in Franklin County in August. He eventually was released, placed on probation, given a 180-day suspended sentence—and began stealing again.

Authorities acknowledge that Deel may suffer from withdrawal symptoms during his current confinement, especially with *Downton Abbey*’s final season scheduled to begin airing in the United States on January 3, 2016.

**“Somehow I don’t envision *Downton Abbey* viewing parties being included on the list of recreational activities offered at the Franklin County Correction Center,” said First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick, who coordinated the efforts to bring Deel to justice.**

Along with multiple counts of theft, Deel’s past criminal history includes charges of felony drug possession, obstructing official business, tampering with evidence, felony weapons possession, criminal trespass, and recklessly causing serious physical harm.

# ARRESTED

## The Downton Abbey Addict



### **BRANDEN JOSEPH DEEL**

**DOB:** 8/29/1985 (Age 30)

**Height:** 6'1" **Weight:** 155

**Hair:** Brown **Eyes:** Green

**Last Known Address:**

3024 Medina Ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 43224

**Case Numbers:**

2015 CRB 025905

**Charge(s):**

2313.02 – Theft