

Fugitive kidney dad arrested

by UPI

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico - An American who got out of jail by promising to donate a kidney to his son only to flee the country, leaving him behind, was arrested Wednesday in Mexico.

Byron Perkins and his girlfriend, Lee Ann Howard, were taken into custody in the Mexican coastal city of Puerto Vallarta and flown to Los Angeles. They were expected to appear in court Thursday and face extradition to Louisville, Ky., CNN reported.

Perkins, 38, was facing 25 years to life as a career violent criminal when he was released from jail without bond in January 2006 so he could complete testing before giving a kidney to his then 16-year-old son Destin. But he fled, leaving his son to endure dialysis for months before another matching organ could be found.

"I don't know how he could lay his head down at night, just knowing that he ran away and left me up here to die like that," Destin Perkins told CNN. "That's just one of my main questions, is why he did it and how he could do it."

He said he's "doing fine, just fine" since receiving a kidney last August from an anonymous cadaver donor in California.

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