

Man accused of burning child denied bond

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The Lynchburg man accused of lowering a 5-year-old boy into scalding water was again denied bond in circuit court Thursday.

Shawn Lamont Franklin, 26, is charged with felony abuse and neglect of a child and aggravated malicious wounding.

Franklin is accused of putting the boy into scalding water in late February, according to Lynchburg police. He was earlier denied bond on April 20 in juvenile and domestic relations district court on the same charges. Thursday's hearing was an appeal of that decision.

He testified Thursday that he had a fast-food job lined up should he be released and that his grandmother was willing to put up her home to guarantee he wouldn't run away.

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee said Franklin had a history of avoiding police. He had been wanted on credit card fraud and forgery charges stemming



Franklin

for the child-burning charges, Felmlee said.

When asked why he hadn't reported the child's burns, Felmlee said Franklin "admitted he knew he was wanted by police."

Franklin's attorney, Scott De Bruin, said the boy has told different stories to police. In an earlier hearing, De Bruin said the boy blamed siblings in one version of the story. Thursday, he asked for a \$25,000 secured bond.

Judge Leyburn Mosby denied the request, saying he believed Franklin was a flight risk.

The boy's mother, Faith Loftin, also has been denied bond. She has been charged with felony child abuse. Franklin and Loftin are scheduled for a preliminary hearing in juvenile and domestic relations district court on June 9.