Delinquent juvenile escapes sheriff's deputies in Reading, is chased and captured

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- Berks County sheriff's deputies Thursday captured a juvenile offender in downtown Reading about five minutes after he escaped from deputies leading him from the services center to a prisoner-transport van, Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht said.

The youth broke the chain of his leg irons about 11:30 a.m. as three deputies were leading the boy and four other juveniles from the cell block in the basement of the courthouse, Weaknecht said.

The 17-year-old boy had been in juvenile court earlier for a hearing on drug-related charges and was to be taken back to the Berks County Youth Center in Bern Township, the sheriff said.

Two of the deputies stayed with the other juveniles, who also were shackled, while the third deputy chased the youth north on North Sixth Street. Several other deputies helped catch the youth, who was taken into custody and returned to the youth center.

An investigation continues.