# British teenager missing in Thailand found arrested for drug smuggling in Georgia



A British teenager, Bella May Culley, has been arrested on drug charges in Georgia, a full 4,000 miles from where she was reported missing in Thailand. This alarming turn of events has captivated the attention of both her family and the public, who initially launched a widespread search operation when she lost contact with her loved ones. Culley, 18, was last known to be holidaying in Pattaya, Thailand, before her disappearance prompted anxious appeals from her family for assistance in tracing her whereabouts.

As the investigation unfolded, Cleveland Police confirmed that local authorities in Georgia arrested her on suspicion of drug-related offences, specifically for allegedly attempting to smuggle 14kg of cannabis into the country after being flagged during a routine check at Tbilisi International Airport. Footage from Georgian news outlets showed her being escorted into a police station, handcuffed, and facing serious legal repercussions that could include a lengthy prison sentence—up to 20 years or even life imprisonment, according to statements from the Georgian Interior Ministry.

Culley’s journey began after she flew out to the Philippines shortly after Easter, following which she had travelled to Thailand around May 3. During her vacation, she maintained an active social media presence, until her last post on May 5, in which she was seen enjoying herself with friends. Her family had been in contact with her regularly, and she was scheduled to speak with her mother, Lyanne Kennedy, on Saturday before she suddenly disappeared. The family's distress was palpable, with Lyanne expressing her desperate desire for her daughter’s return, stating, “I just want her home and safe or to hear her gorgeous little voice.”

The circumstances surrounding her arrest have raised many questions. The family's concerns grew when they noticed her lack of communication, which initially led them to believe she might have been flying back to surprise them. However, communication soon ceased entirely, plunging them into uncertainty. Her father, Neil Culley, has travelled to Thailand seeking answers and has been actively liaising with local law enforcement to ascertain her last known location.

Further complicating matters, Culley’s family believes she was supposed to return via Bangkok after a flight with a connection in Frankfurt. As the investigation continues, there is an air of mystery surrounding the events that led Culley to Georgia and the choices she made in the lead-up to her arrest. Lyanne expressed her reservations about her daughter's travel plans, admitting she had an unsettling feeling prior to the trip and had implored Culley to reconsider her journey to Thailand. “I really didn’t want her to go to Thailand. I begged her to come home,” she recalled.

This harrowing situation not only marks a significant personal disaster for the Culley family but also highlights larger societal issues related to drug culture, especially amongst young people. Recent incidents in Georgia, such as the arrest of a woman supplying fentanyl-laced pills that caused an overdose, underscore the growing problem of drug-related offences throughout the state, revealing a troubling trend that has affected numerous families and communities. Authorities remain vigilant in their efforts to combat these emerging threats, which have taken a tragic toll on the lives of many.

As the family eagerly awaits updates on Bella's situation, the case serves as a sobering reminder of the perils that can arise from seemingly innocent travel adventures, particularly when entwined with the dangers of substance abuse and legal ramifications that can follow.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14708867/Shock-update-British-girl-18-reported-missing-holiday-Thailand-hellish-situation-4-000-miles-away.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14708867/Shock-update-British-girl-18-reported-missing-holiday-Thailand-hellish-situation-4-000-miles-away.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14708867/Shock-update-British-girl-18-reported-missing-holiday-Thailand-hellish-situation-4-000-miles-away.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14708867/Shock-update-British-girl-18-reported-missing-holiday-Thailand-hellish-situation-4-000-miles-away.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14708867/Shock-update-British-girl-18-reported-missing-holiday-Thailand-hellish-situation-4-000-miles-away.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14708867/Shock-update-British-girl-18-reported-missing-holiday-Thailand-hellish-situation-4-000-miles-away.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 7: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14708867/Shock-update-British-girl-18-reported-missing-holiday-Thailand-hellish-situation-4-000-miles-away.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 8: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14708867/Shock-update-British-girl-18-reported-missing-holiday-Thailand-hellish-situation-4-000-miles-away.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14708867/Shock-update-British-girl-18-reported-missing-holiday-Thailand-hellish-situation-4-000-miles-away.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/woman-arrested-supplying-fentanyl-laced-pills-sandy-springs-overdose> - A 19-year-old woman, Mallery James, was arrested in Sandy Springs, Georgia, on charges of aggravated involuntary manslaughter after allegedly supplying fentanyl-laced pills that led to the death of her friend, Makayla Peacock. The incident occurred on June 6, 2023, when Peacock, 19, overdosed after ingesting the pills. James was released on a $50,000 bond. This case highlights the dangers of fentanyl-laced substances and the severe legal consequences for those involved in their distribution. The investigation was conducted by Sandy Springs police, with support from local authorities. ([fox5atlanta.com](https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/woman-arrested-supplying-fentanyl-laced-pills-sandy-springs-overdose?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.ajc.com/news/crime/sandy-springs-teen-bonds-out-after-arrest-in-friends-fentanyl-od/UKMIABPVXBAY7KJ4BAZZOP4RU4/> - Mallery James, a 19-year-old from Forsyth County, Georgia, was charged with aggravated involuntary manslaughter following the death of her friend, Makayla Peacock, 19, from a fentanyl overdose. The incident occurred on June 6, 2023, after Peacock purchased fentanyl-laced pills from James. James was released on a $50,000 bond. This case underscores the risks associated with fentanyl-laced substances and the legal repercussions for individuals involved in their distribution. The investigation was led by Sandy Springs police, with assistance from local law enforcement agencies. ([ajc.com](https://www.ajc.com/news/crime/sandy-springs-teen-bonds-out-after-arrest-in-friends-fentanyl-od/UKMIABPVXBAY7KJ4BAZZOP4RU4/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.wbtw.com/news/pee-dee/florence-county/florence-county-deputies-arrest-2-on-drug-child-neglect-charges/> - In Florence County, South Carolina, deputies arrested 24-year-old Saleek McClease and 21-year-old Haley Bellamy on drug and child neglect charges. During a search of their residence, authorities discovered unspecified amounts of cocaine and marijuana in close proximity to children living there. McClease was charged with distribution of controlled substances, possession with intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana, three counts of child neglect, and conspiracy. Bellamy faced similar charges, including three counts of unlawful conduct toward a child. Both were released on bonds totaling $50,000 and $20,000, respectively. ([wbtw.com](https://www.wbtw.com/news/pee-dee/florence-county/florence-county-deputies-arrest-2-on-drug-child-neglect-charges/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://apnews.com/article/rome-4a54b0591c134d8bae31688b194192a1> - A 19-year-old woman was arrested in Rome, Georgia, on drug charges after being released from the hospital. The woman, whose identity was not disclosed, was taken into custody following her discharge. The arrest was part of a broader effort by local authorities to combat drug-related offenses in the area. The specific charges and details of the case were not immediately available. The incident highlights ongoing concerns about drug-related issues in Georgia and the state's commitment to addressing them through law enforcement actions. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/rome-4a54b0591c134d8bae31688b194192a1?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://starsalert.com/news/brit-mum-breaks-silence-after-daughter/1513311> - Kim Hall, a British mother from Middlesbrough, has spoken out after her daughter, Kim Hall, was arrested in the United States for allegedly smuggling £3.5 million worth of cocaine into the country. The 28-year-old beautician was detained at Chicago's O'Hare airport after customs officials found two suitcases containing 43 kilograms of cocaine. Hall claims she was unaware of the drugs' presence and believed she was transporting cash from real estate deals. She is currently held in Cook County Jail, facing potential charges that could lead to up to 60 years in prison. ([starsalert.com](https://starsalert.com/news/brit-mum-breaks-silence-after-daughter/1513311?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://starsalert.com/news/i-gave-her-them-cop-says-teen-accused-of/301797> - In a tragic case in Irvine, Scotland, 19-year-old Callum Owens was acquitted of the culpable homicide of 16-year-old Grace Handling. Owens had supplied Handling with ecstasy pills, which led to her death from intoxication. During the trial, Owens admitted to giving Handling the pills but denied causing her death. The jury found the case against him not proven, and he was released from court. The incident underscores the dangers associated with recreational drug use and the legal consequences for those involved in supplying controlled substances. ([starsalert.com](https://starsalert.com/news/i-gave-her-them-cop-says-teen-accused-of/301797?utm_source=openai))