



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: UPDATE – ADDITIONAL CHARGES ADDED - Possession of Child Pornography
Arrest – Carl Hatfield – 2023-20622

Date: February 6, 2024

UPDATE

On 02-05-24, Detectives executed a search warrant upon Hatfield's cell phone.

Forensic analysis of the contents of the phone revealed 11 files of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

On 02-05-24, while still in custody on the original charges (listed below), Hatfield was arrested for possessing an additional 11 CSAM images.

Carl Eugene Hatfield DOB/12-03-1967, who has been charged with a total of 75 counts of Possession of Child Pornography, is now being held without bond.

ORIGINAL RELEASE – 01-09-24

On 06-27-23, Hernando County Sheriff's detectives received information regarding the possible possession of child pornography.

Investigation revealed a possible suspect, identified as Carl Eugene Hatfield.

Detectives authored a search warrant for Hatfield's account, which was authorized by Judge D. Scaglione. The search warrant was subsequently served to Hatfield's social media provider. The search warrant yielded contents of Hatfield's account.

While reviewing the contents of Hatfield's account, detectives located 64 files of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

On 01-08-24, detectives responded to Hatfield's residence, located at 5220 Oney Drive in Brooksville, in an attempt to speak with Hatfield.

When initially speaking with detectives, Hatfield suggested his account had been hacked, stating he did not upload the child pornography into his account. After being confronted with certain facts of the case, which suggested otherwise, Hatfield admitted to uploading the files.

Hatfield went on to tell detectives that he uploaded the files for "research" and "evidentiary" purposes, explaining that his goal was to report the illegal activity to the appropriate authorities.

Detectives placed **Carl Eugene Hatfield DOB/12-03-1967** under arrest, charging him as follows:

- Possession of Child Pornography (64 counts)
- Unlawful Use of Two-Way Communication Device
- No Bond.

Detectives seized Hatfield's cell phone; a search warrant is forthcoming for its contents.

Additional charges are possible, pending examination of the contents of the cell phone.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis has a zero tolerance for possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material. Any and all tips are, and will be, meticulously investigated, no stone will be left unturned. Any person who possesses material of this nature will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips

If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!

Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or **TIPS from a cell phone.

You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .

You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!