



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Possession of Child Pornography Arrest – Jonathan Smith – 2024-04086

Date: March 15, 2024

On 02-08-24, Hernando County Sheriff's detectives received information regarding the possible possession and distribution of child pornography.

Subsequent investigation revealed a possible suspect, identified as Jonathan Smith.

Detectives authored a search warrant for Smith's online accounts and subsequently served same to Smith's internet provider. The search warrant yielded the contents of Smith's account.

Upon reviewing the contents of Smith's account, detectives located 20 files of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

On 03-14-24, detectives responded to Smith's residence, located in Spring Hill, to speak to him.

Upon arrival at the residence, detectives met with members of Smith's family, who advised that Smith had recently moved to North Carolina. At that time, detectives contacted Smith by phone. During the call, Smith verified ownership of the account(s) in question.

After obtaining a warrant for Smith's arrest, detectives contacted authorities at the Kernersville Police Department in North Carolina to request they respond to Smith's new address to serve the arrest warrant.

Jonathan Caleb Smith DOB/05-22-1993 was placed under arrest and charged as follows:

- Possession of Child Pornography (20 counts)

- Unlawful Use of Two-Way Communication Device
- No Bond.

Smith will be transported back to Hernando County to face charges.

The investigation continues.

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!