

— SHERIFF — Al Nienhuis

Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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<u>Media Release</u>

From: Michael Terry Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

Re: UPDATE – ADDITIONAL CHARGES ADDED – Possession of Child Pornography Arrest – Michael Foster – 2023-39632

Date: February 23, 2024

On 12-20-2023, Detectives executed a search warrant upon Michael Foster's residence where they collected his personal cell phone.

Forensic analysis of the contents of the phone revealed 12 additional files of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

On 02-21-2024, while still in custody on the original charges (listed below), Foster was arrested for possessing an additional 12 CSAM images.

Michael David Foster DOB/10-07-1976, who has been charged with a total of 32 counts of Possession of Child Pornography, is now being held in lieu of a \$550,000 bond.

Original information

On 12-16-2023, Hernando County Sheriff's detectives received information regarding the possible possession of child pornography by an individual who lives at 315 Zoller Street in Brooksville.

Through investigation, detectives identified the suspect as Michael David Foster, a former corrections officer in Citrus County and a current overnight employee at Walt Disney World (mechanic).

Upon receiving the initial information, detectives seized a flash drive and a few SD cards that had been located in a book bag belonging to Foster. The flash drive contained 32 images of child pornography.

On 12-20-23, detectives executed a search warrant at Foster's residence on Zoller Street. Upon execution of the search warrant, detectives contacted Foster. Post Miranda, Foster admitted to ownership of the book bag, flash drive, and the SD cards. Foster also admitted to downloading and viewing the pornographic images.

Detectives also seized several additional digital storage devices from within the residence. **Michael David Foster DOB/10-07-1976** was placed under arrest and charged as follows:

- Possession of Child Pornography (32 counts)
- Bond \$320,000.

Additional charges are possible, pending digital forensic analysis of all devices seized from Foster's residence.

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 <u>http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com</u>.

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