



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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From: Kasey Johnson  
Community Relations Coordinator, 352-797-3660

Re: UPDATE – Additional Charges Filed for Sexual Battery – Michael Ray Groves –  
2024-03888

Date: May 13, 2024

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#### UPDATE

In January 2024, **Michael Groves, DOB/10-19-1966**, was arrested and charged with possession of child pornography. This arrest preceded another investigation into Groves for multiple counts of alleged sexual abuse of minors.

The investigation resulted in obtaining evidence which yielded probable cause to arrest Groves.

On 05-01-2024, Groves was arrested and charged with 1 count of **Sexual Battery by Custodian** and 1 count of **Showing Obscene Material to a Minor**. The state attorney's office further direct filed an additional count of sexual battery by custodian as well as 1 count of attempted sexual battery by custodian.

On 05-02-2024, a grand jury hearing resulted in the indictment of Groves on all 4 aforementioned counts.

---Original Information – Released 01-25-2024---

On 11-18-23, Hernando County Sheriff's detectives received information regarding the possession of child pornography.

Subsequent investigation revealed a possible suspect, identified as Michael Ray Groves.

Detectives authored a search warrant for Groves' on-line accounts, which was authorized by Judge B. Bell. The search warrant was subsequently served to Groves' social media provider. The search warrant yielded the contents of Groves' account.

Upon reviewing the contents of Groves' account, detectives located 73 files of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

On 01-24-24, detectives responded to Groves' residence, located at 6979 Corliss Road in Brooksville to speak to him.

During the interview, Groves admitted to owning the social media account in question, and to viewing and possessing the files of CSAM.

**Michael Ray Groves** DOB/10-19-1966 was arrested and charged as follows:

- Possession of Child Pornography (73 counts)
- Unlawful Use of Two-Way Communication Device
- No Bond.

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!**