



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Jessica Burns
Community Relations Coordinator, 352-797-3660

Re: Spring Hill Daycare Employee Arrested for Child Abuse

Date: October 14, 2025

On 10-06-2025, at approximately 3:02 p.m., deputies responded to a local daycare facility in reference to a report of possible child abuse involving an employee and an 11-year-old child with disabilities.

Video surveillance from inside the classroom showed **Kaitlyn Pitzer DOB/06-24-1989**, with the assistance of another aide, attempting to bandage a child's forehead as the child sat on the floor. As the child leaned forward, Pitzer forcefully pushed on the child's forehead, causing the child's body to jerk backward in a manner that appeared violent and excessive.

A few minutes later, at approximately 3:06 p.m., video showed Pitzer taunting the child with a piece of cake. When the child reached out and swiped some icing with their finger, Pitzer, visibly frustrated, took the child's finger and smeared the icing across the child's face. She then picked up icing that had fallen on the floor and aggressively rubbed it onto the child's forehead. Pitzer proceeded to wet a paper towel, approach the child from behind, and forcefully wipe the icing from the child's face, causing visible distress. The child is seen immediately moving away from Pitzer in an attempt to separate from her.

At approximately 3:08 p.m., the video showed the child standing near a trash can where the cake had been discarded. Pitzer then grabbed the child and brought them to a wall-mounted hand sanitizer dispenser. Without warning, she applied hand sanitizer directly to the child's open wounds on their arms. The child again ran to the other side of the classroom in distress.

During the investigation, detectives made contact with the child's parent, who expressed significant concern after viewing the surveillance video. The parent advised that the force used to shove the child backward could have caused serious injury due to pre-existing medical conditions. The parent also reported that scabbed injuries, which had been in the process of healing, began bleeding again after the incident.

Detectives later made contact with Pitzer at her residence in Hernando County. She was taken into custody and transported to the Hernando County Sheriff's Office for questioning.

While speaking with Pitzer she advised that she had been frustrated that day and acknowledged her behavior was inappropriate. She stated that she knew applying hand sanitizer to the child's open wounds would cause pain but did not care at the time. Pitzer further admitted to smearing cake on the child's face and said she thought it was "funny" in the moment.

Detectives determined that the child is a vulnerable victim with documented medical conditions, and the actions captured on video clearly fell outside the boundaries of appropriate and lawful care.

Pitzer was placed under arrest and transported to the Hernando County Detention Center for the following charge:

Ct.1) **Child Abuse**

BOND \$5,000.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office would like to thank daycare administration for their cooperation during this investigation.



Kaitlyn Pitzer

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!