



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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

Re: Undercover Operation Leads to Arrest of Hernando County Man on Sex  
Charges – 2024-0016758

Date: June 3, 2024

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On 05-30-2024, detectives from the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Section, Special Victims Unit, were alerted to an individual who made arrangements to travel to a location in Hernando County for the purpose of meeting with, what he believed to be a 14-year-old-boy to engage in sexual activities.

The detective who was acting an undercover capacity was engaged in messaging with the suspect, **Frank Wheeler DOB/10-08-1992**, a resident of Hernando County.

Wheeler had been engaged in sexually explicit conversations with the undercover detective for approximately 6 weeks prior to arranging to meet and engaging in the sexual acts discussed.

Upon questioning by detectives, Wheeler admitted to the conversations, which included the arrangements to meet for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity.

Wheeler was arrested at the scene and charged as follows:

- Transmission of Harmful Material to a Minor**
- Traveling to Meet a Minor**
- **Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communication Device**

Wheeler has since bonded out jail and is court-ordered to be equipped with a GPS tracking device, have no contact with children under the age of 18, and no internet access.

This investigation is still ongoing.

**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!**