



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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

Re: Absconded Sexual Offender From Texas Located by Hernando County Sheriff's
Office Detectives – 202600160628

Date: March 26, 2026

On 03-24-2026, information was received that sex offender **John Earnest Collier Jr. DOB/12-03-1964**, was residing at a residence located in Weeki Wachee.

Collier is a Sexual Offender on parole with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, who had absconded from the State of Texas, and has active felony warrants for a parole violation.

Detective Marcacci conducted a Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC), and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) check on Collier, which revealed two active felony warrants out of Polk County, Texas, for Violation of Parole. The original charges associated with the warrants were **Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child Victim 8 Years of Age** and **Failure to Register as a Sexual Offender**.

Detective Marcacci made contact with Collier and with assistance from the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force, he was taken into custody.

Collier stated that he absconded from the State of Texas after becoming aware that he had violated the conditions of his parole. Collier further advised that he is a registered Sexual Offender and that he previously served approximately 18 years in prison for his 2008 conviction involving a child victim.

Collier acknowledged that he was aware if he left the State of Texas, he was required to notify Texas authorities and register as a Sexual Offender in any new state of residence, including Florida. Collier advised he had been staying at the residence in Weeki Wachee since January of 2026.

With Collier failing to register as a sexual offender in the state of Florida, he was arrested for the following violation:

Ct1) Failure to Register as a Sexual Offender Within 48 Hours

Collier is being held **without bond**.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office remains committed to aggressively monitoring sexual offenders and predators within our community. Compliance with registration and reporting requirements is not optional. Those who choose to violate the law will be located and held accountable.



John Collier Jr.

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!