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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF FLORIDA

Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

Attorney General James Uthmeier Charges Predator for Sexually Exploiting a Child in Orange and Polk Counties



Courtesy of the Office of the Attorney General

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Today, Attorney General James Uthmeier announced that the Office of Statewide Prosecution has charged Rafiq Osborne McDonald, 34, with sexually exploiting a child under the age of 12 in Orange and Polk Counties.

“Predators who sexually abuse children will be hunted down and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law,” **said Attorney General James Uthmeier**. “Thanks to our local law enforcement partners and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, this defendant is facing serious felony charges—including crimes that carry mandatory prison time. Florida is the safest place to raise a family, and we will keep it that way.”

“This is yet another example of just how serious Florida is about hunting down every predator who chooses to target our children,” **said Statewide Prosecutor Brad McVay**. “Under Attorney General Uthmeier’s leadership, we are locking up predators at a rate this state has never seen, and we aren’t slowing down anytime soon.”

"Abusers like this one cause unimaginable harm, and we are committed to using every resource available to stop them and hold them accountable," **said FDLE Tampa Bay Special Agent in Charge Mark Dubina**. "We will continue to protect Florida's children and ensure they can have the safe, bright future they deserve."

"Strong partnerships are one of the critical tools we have in law enforcement," **said Lakeland Police Chief Sammy L. Taylor.** "When local, state and federal agencies share resources, information and expertise, we strengthen our ability to hold offenders accountable and protect the people we serve. This teamwork makes Lakeland safer, Polk County safer and ultimately makes the entire State of Florida safer."

"Protecting our most vulnerable requires a united front, and this case highlights the true strength of interagency collaboration," **said Apopka Police Chief Lovetta Quinn-Henry**. "Although the Apopka Police Department launched the initial investigation, our success reflects collaborative expertise, vigilance, and heart of our state and regional partners. I extend my deepest appreciation to Attorney General Uthmeier for his steadfast support, and to the dedicated professionals at the Office of Statewide Prosecution, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Polk County Sheriff's Office. It is an honor to stand shoulder to shoulder with partners who share an unwavering commitment to safeguarding our children and holding offenders accountable."

According to the investigation, the offenses occurred in the Ninth and Tenth Judicial Circuits as part of a related transaction. Investigators from local law enforcement and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement developed evidence that McDonald sexually molested a child under 12 who had been left in his care, recorded the abuse, and possessed child sexual abuse material depicting the child.

McDonald has been charged with the following offenses:

- Lewd or Lascivious Molestation of a Child Under 12 (Punishable by Life; 25-year mandatory minimum)
- Lewd or Lascivious Molestation of a Child Under 12 (Punishable by Life; 25-year mandatory minimum)
- Promoting Sexual Performance by a Child
- Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material

The charges are part of a record statewide crackdown on child predators. Since Attorney General Uthmeier took office in February 2025, more than 2,000 child predators have been arrested. The Office of Statewide Prosecution's Crimes Against Children efforts have secured over 700 years of prison sentences—more than four times the previous rate—against child predators, while case filings have increased dramatically.

This case will be prosecuted by Senior Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Lauryn Day in the Tenth Judicial Circuit.

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