



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**

## **FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** Friday, June 22, 2018

**Contact:** Shannon Martin | (386) 586-4802 | [martin@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:martin@flaglersheriff.com)

## **Man Arrested for Trafficking Bath Salts, Child Neglect**

On Thursday, June 21, 2018, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Unit and SWAT Team executed a Search Warrant at 57 Blakemore Drive in Palm Coast. The Search Warrant was the result of a two-month long investigation. The Special Investigations Unit received multiple complaints of heavy traffic in and out of the residence at all hours of the day and night.

The home was occupied by Rondal Gibson, Sarah Rodriguez, and their three young children. The Florida Department of Children and Families was immediately notified due to the amount of drugs found in the home around the children.

During the search, Detectives seized an array of illegal narcotics with a total street value of approximately \$7,000.00. Packaging items consistent with illegal distribution were found throughout the home.

Detectives discovered a trafficking amount of illegal Synthetic Cathinones, or "Bath Salts," within the master bedroom, just feet away from where a child was sleeping. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Synthetic Cathinones are central nervous stimulants and are designed to mimic effects similar to those produced by cocaine, methamphetamine, and MDMA (Ecstasy).



Images of the Bath Salts located during the Search.

Rondal Gibson was arrested and charged with Possession of Cannabis with Intent to Distribute, Possession of THC Hash Oil with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Trafficking in

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Cathinones (10-200g), and Child Neglect. The trafficking charge carries a 3-year mandatory prison sentence and a \$50,000 fine if found guilty.

“Not only is this drug dealer selling his poison to others, but he is keeping it within arm’s reach of very small children,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “He is lucky the children did not get ingest these drugs, as it could be deadly. I am proud of our detectives for doing the leg work to get him off the street and behind bars where he belongs. I also thank the community for reporting suspicious activity. If you see something, say something.”

Gibson is being held at the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility on a \$30,500.00 bond. The investigation is ongoing and further charges are pending.

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