



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday, March 7th, 2019

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Ex-Bunnell Cop Arrested for additional Felony and Misdemeanor Charges Less than One Month after Release from Prison – Investigation Continuing

This afternoon the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) obtained a warrant for the arrest of former Bunnell Police Corporal Michael Starvis.

This is not Stavris's first run in with law enforcement. Stavris was originally arrested on March 25, 2014, by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) following accusations that he asked for, and received, images of genitalia from male teens through social media by posing as a teen girl. Stavris agreed to a plea deal and was sentenced on July 26, 2016 to three years in prison followed by five years of probation. He was released from prison on February 11, 2019.

On February 15, 2019 FCSO received a call from a Flagler County resident reporting that someone had created a fictitious Facebook account using her juvenile child's photographs, and name.

The complainant further stated that the creator of the fictitious Facebook account also contacted various men, engaging them in inappropriate conversation, while posing as the victim. Additionally, it was reported that some of the messages included comments about stickers affixed on the rear of the victim's vehicle, which were recently placed. For this reason, it was believed that the suspect was following the victim, placing the juvenile in danger.

On February 22, 2019, FCSO Detectives and FDLE assisted with a probation check on Stavris where they conducted a search of his cell phone. A search of the phone confirmed that the cell phone was being used by Stavris to access, maintain, and upload photographs on "Facebook", violating the terms of his probation. Stavris was placed under arrest at that time.

On March 7, 2019, FCSO detectives obtained a search warrant for Stavris' cell phone which revealed evidence of the above crimes as well as some google searches that require further investigation. Some

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of those google searches included searches for law enforcement personnel’s social media accounts, their spouses social media accounts, child erotica and other pornographic websites that were regularly accessed since his release from prison.

Stavris confessed to creating the fictitious social media account and impersonating a juvenile and was charged with felony child abuse, felony fraudulent use of personal identification of a minor and stalking, a misdemeanor.

“This is a guy who obviously has not learned and continues his illegal behavior since released from prison,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “Probation is not something you can choose whether or not to abide by. Either you toe the line or you go back to jail. Thanks to the great work by our detectives this guy is staying in his new home, the Green Roof Inn where he belongs.”

Stavris was booked into the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility where he is currently being held without bond. This investigation is on-going and further charges may be pending.

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