



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**

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

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

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** April 14, 2021  
**Prepared by:** Brittany Kershaw  
**Phone and Email:** (386) 586-2637; [bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com)  
**Release #:** 2021-079

## **Man Sentenced to 30 Years in Federal Prison for Sex Trafficking of a Minor** **First Human Trafficking Conviction in Flagler County History**

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) arrested Sean Patrick Farrelly, 47, of Palm Coast, on February 18, 2019, for two separate counts of Sexual Crimes against Minors and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor. In March 2019, the FBI adopted the case and Farrelly was indicted by a Grand Jury for Sex Trafficking of a Minor.

On Tuesday, April 13, 2021, United States District Judge Marcia Morales Howard sentenced Farrelly to 30 years in federal prison for Sex Trafficking a Minor. Farrelly was also ordered to serve a 10-year term of supervised release and to register as a Sex Offender. Farrelly had pleaded guilty on June 19, 2019.

"This conviction highlights the incredible job accomplished by our detectives, with Sergeant Frank Gamarra taking the lead," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "The work done to build this case was incredible and commendable. Thank you to our federal partners for working with us to bring justice to the victim and send Farrelly to prison for 30 years. If you prey on children, we will do everything we can to build strong cases to send you away for a very long time!"

According to court documents, between March 2018 and February 2019, Farrelly recruited, enticed, and solicited a 16-year-old child to engage in commercial sex acts, by texting the victim, sending her pictures of money, and providing her with alcohol or marijuana. Farrelly paid the child victim \$30 to \$40 each time that they engaged in sexual intercourse. During several recorded phone calls between Farrelly and the victim, Farrelly admitted to having sexual intercourse with the victim and stated that he was worried the calls were being recorded and he was going to go to jail.

This case was investigated by the Flagler County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ashley Washington.

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It is another case investigated and prosecuted as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.justice.gov/psc](http://www.justice.gov/psc).

Information above derived from: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/flagler-county-man-sentenced-30-years-federal-prison-sex-trafficking-minor>

***Original News Releases below.***

**Date:** Friday, March 22, 2019

**Contact:** Brittany Kershaw | (386) 586-2637 | [bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com)

## **Flagler County Man Indicted for Sex Trafficking of a Minor**

Jacksonville, Florida – United States Attorney Maria Chapa Lopez announces the return by a grand jury of an indictment charging Sean Patrick Farrelly (47, Palm Coast) with sex trafficking of a minor girl. If convicted, Farrelly faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years, and up to life, in federal prison.

According to the indictment, between approximately March 2018 and February 2019, Farrelly recruited, enticed, transported, obtained, maintained, patronized, and solicited a girl under age of 18 years old to engage in a commercial sex act.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed one or more violations of federal criminal law, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the Flagler Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ashley Washington.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

"We appreciate our partnership with the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office in charging him with a federal crime," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "I hope that he spends a long time in federal prison where he

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1769 East Moody Blvd., Bunnell, FL 32110

386-437-4116 – Fax 386-586-4888

Mailing: P.O. Box 879, Bunnell, FL 32110

[www.flaglersheriff.com](http://www.flaglersheriff.com)

belongs.”

**Date:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019

**Contact:** Brittany Kershaw; (386) 586-2637; [bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com)

## **Male Arrested for Sex Crimes Against Minor**

Sean Patrick Farrelly, 47, of Palm Coast, was arrested and charged with two separate counts of Sexual Crimes against Minors, Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, and Possession of Marijuana by Flagler County Sheriff’s Office Detectives on Tuesday evening.

After receiving a report of the sexual offenses on Monday, February 18, detectives with the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office Major Case Unit met with the victim and family. Detectives were immediately able to corroborate portions of the victim’s story.

With the assistance of the First Coast Child Protection Team, the Department of Children and Families, the victim, and the victim’s family, detectives created a plan of action. Within several hours of utilizing several investigative methods, detectives were able to establish probable cause and arrested the suspect without incident at his residence.

“Our detectives worked quickly but carefully to gather the evidence in this case and get this perpetrator in jail where he belongs,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “If you prey and take advantage of our children we will work swiftly to put you in the Green Roof Inn where you belong.”

While searching the suspect prior to transporting him to the jail, detectives located marijuana in his pocket leading to the narcotics charge. Farrelly is being held in the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility with No Bond.

Detectives and deputies are currently in the process of securing and executing several search warrants related to the crimes. The case is still considered ongoing and additional charges are possible.

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