



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**

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

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

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** December 17, 2021  
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## **13-Year-Old Arrested for False Report of Shooting** **Sheriff Urges Parents to Talk to their Children about Consequences**

On December 16, 2021, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) was notified of a nationwide TikTok trend alluding to possible threats in schools throughout the county. FCSO's Homeland Security Section immediately began monitoring various social media platforms. Later, Deputies were alerted about an Indian Trails Middle School (ITMS) student who created a TikTok account referencing a potential school shooting to take place the following day and immediately began investigating.

FCSO received a report from a juvenile stating an Instagram username of "itms\_school\_shooting" sent her a friend request and several requests were sent to other ITMS students. The reporting party advised there was a story posted with "Can't wait for tomorrow." The juvenile responded to the story stating "You're not funny and can't joke about that," and the other account user advised "I'm not joking" and "Wait for tomorrow." At approximately 10 PM, the account owner changed the username to "itms\_school\_food."

Utilizing investigative techniques, detectives were able to identify a suspect. The suspect was a 13-year-old B-section resident and when detectives made contact with him, he advised he was "just joking" with a couple of his friends with no intention to do any harm.

"This has to stop! Kids – making threats of violence will only get you arrested," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "Parents – talk to your children – now! Words have consequences. And saying it's a joke is not an alibi. We have zero tolerance for making threats and you will be arrested! I commend the reporter for doing the right thing and notifying us of the TikTok comments. I only wish DJJ would take these criminal acts more seriously so the system has teeth and consequences. As we have seen, catch and release does not work."

The juvenile was arrested for False Report for Use of Firearms in a Violent Manner and was transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility. Based on DJJ's point system, DJJ refused to accept the juvenile and ordered him released to the custody of his parents.

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