



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**

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

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

### **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2018

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### **Man Charged with Battery for Instigating Fight Between Juveniles and then Joining In**

On Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, Flagler County Sheriff's deputies responded to a disturbance at Indian Trails Sports Complex in Palm Coast where two fourteen year old boys had engaged in a fight. Upon further investigation, deputies discovered that not only had the boys been fighting but the father of one of the boys, Anthony Gardiner, 34 years old, instigated the fight between the two and then jumped in the fight himself.



*ABOVE: Gardiner instigating and engaging in the fight between the two fourteen year olds.*

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office has obtained video footage of the incident that was recorded by a witness at the time of the fight. The video shows Gardiner instigating the fight between the two boys and ultimately jumping in to push the boy off his son.

"Most parents would do everything within their power to prevent any harm coming to their child,"

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Sheriff Rick Staly said. “But this is a parent who actively encouraged violence between his son and another child to solve a problem. Then, took it another step further and began fighting one of the kids himself. This is not how you teach your children problem solving skills.”

Charges have been submitted to the State Attorney’s Office on Gardiner for Battery and Disorderly Conduct as a result of this incident.

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