



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: August 21, 2025
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Release #: 2025 – 150

CASE UPDATE: Palm Coast Man Sentenced to 14-Years in Prison for Child Sex Offense

BUNNELL, Fla. — On August 20, 2025, David Chenowith, 33, of Palm Coast, was sentenced to 14 years in the Florida Department of Corrections, with credit for 398 days of time served, after accepting a plea deal in a child sex offense case. These charges include lewd and lascivious battery, unlawful sexual activity with a minor, and promoting sexual performance of a minor.

"Thanks to the hard work of our deputies, detectives, and the prosecutor, this predator will have a long time in prison to think about his actions," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "While it's a relief that he has been removed from society, at least temporarily, I firmly believe that anyone who takes the innocence away from a child should stay behind bars forever so they can never harm another child ever again."

Upon completion of his prison term, Chenowith is required to register as a sexual predator and will be placed on sex offender probation for 20 years. Additionally, as part of his plea deal, Chenowith must not have any contact with the victim or the victim's family.

Chenowith is currently being held at the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility while he awaits transfer to DOC.

Original Release Date: August 8, 2024 (Update 1)
Original Release #: 2024 – 135

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Case Update: Human Trafficking Suspect Arrested on 34 Additional Crimes After Evidence Recovered from Cell Phone

BUNNELL, Fla. — On August 7, 2024, Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Major Case Unit obtained two additional arrest warrants on David Chenowith, 32, of Palm Coast, based on a review of evidence recovered from his cell phone by FCSO's Digital Forensics Unit. The warrants were served at the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility where he was being held from the prior arrest. He is being held on no bond.

The first arrest warrant was for the following:

- 2 counts of Promoting sexual performance by a child 2nd degree felonies
- 2 counts of unlawful two-way communication device 3rd degree felonies

The second arrest warrant was for the following:

- 13 counts of unlawful two-way communication device 3rd degree felonies
- 3 counts of transmission of child pornography 3rd degree felonies
- 4 counts of Lewd and Lascivious Battery victim 12-16 years 2nd degree felonies
- 10 counts of Promoting sexual performance by a child 2nd degree felonies

Chenowith had been under investigation since June 2024. FCSO deputies had obtained an arrest warrant on him last month for multiple felony offenses for Human Trafficking, Lewd and Lascivious Battery, and Unlawful sexual activity with certain minors. At that time a search warrant for Chenowith's cell phone was also obtained.

"I commend our Major Case Unit and Digital Forensics Unit for their excellent work on this continuing investigation," said Sheriff Staly. "Thankfully, this pervert is behind bars and hopefully will remain behind bars for a very long time so he can't destroy more innocent young lives. I continue to pray that his victims are able to receive the support they need to heal from these horrible attacks."

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Original Release #: 2024 – 125

Palm Coast Man Arrested for Human Trafficking and Multiple Offenses to Minors, Fentanyl Trafficking

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BUNNELL, Fla. — Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) deputies obtained an arrest warrant for a Palm Coast suspect wanted for multiple felony offenses. The suspect had been under investigation since late June, 2024.

On June 21, 2024, a concerned citizen contacted FCSO after receiving concerning messages from a juvenile victim. During the investigation by FCSO's Major Case Unit multiple juveniles, ranging in age from 14 to 16, were identified as victims of human trafficking,. While speaking with the victims, detectives determined the suspect, David William Chenowith, had been having sex with them for drugs, money, clothes, and food.

On July 18, deputies obtained an arrest warrant for Chenowith, 32, for Human Trafficking, Lewd and Lascivious Battery, and Unlawful sexual activity with certain minors. A search warrant for Chenowith's cell phone was also obtained.

Through investigative means, the FCSO Major Case Unit, Patrol, PACE, and K9 were able to quickly locate and arrest Chenowith. During the traffic stop, he was found to be in possession of several drugs with intent to distribute.

Deputies found four clear baggies containing marijuana, six small baggies of a white powder/rocklike substance, four multi-color baggies containing THC gummies, and four THC cartridges.

Three of the six small clear baggies containing the white powder/rocklike substance tested positive for Fentanyl, which weighed 9 grams – enough to kill 4,500 people. The other three baggies tested positive for Cocaine, which also weighed 9 grams.



David William Chenowith (Flagler County Jail mugshot)

"Thanks to the tip from the citizen, we were able to catch this pervert," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "He is now behind bars in the Green Roof Inn where he belongs before he could take the innocence away of more children. I pray the victims will receive the support and counseling they need from an attack like this. Let this be a reminder that if your hurt a child we will come after you."

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Chenowith was arrested for Lewd and Lascivious Battery – Victim 12-16 years of age, Human Trafficking - Minor, Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor. Additional charges include Fentanyl Trafficking 4-14 grams, Controlled Substance Sale, and Hashish – Possession. He was taken to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility and being held on \$102,500 bond.

View bodycam of arrest: <https://bit.ly/4dxfxAD>

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