



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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NEWS RELEASE

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Palm Coast Man Arrested on Sex Crimes Against a Minor

BUNNELL, Fla. — The Flagler County Sheriff's Office has arrested a Palm Coast man following a sex crimes investigation, which began on Dec. 15 after the victim told deputies that they had been sexually battered by a custodial figure.

With assistance from the FCSO Community Policing Division, the FCSO Major Case Unit immediately took over the investigation and determined that Joshua Hawkins, 34, of Palm Coast, not only sexually battered and molested the victim on multiple occasions but also purchased items of a sexual nature and provided them to the victim as gifts.



Joshua Hawkins (Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility mug shot)

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Detectives later met with Hawkins, whose statements supported the allegations against him while significantly downplaying their severity.

On Dec. 23, FCSO detectives obtained a warrant for Hawkins' arrest. He was immediately taken into custody without incident.

"There is no place in Flagler County for child sexual predators who take the innocence away from our children," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "I commend our detectives for quickly getting this pervert in jail where he belongs. My message is clear to all perverts: if you prey on children, we will find you, we will arrest you, we will hold you accountable for your actions, and you will go to prison for a very long time."

Hawkins was arrested for sexual battery of a minor 12-18 years of age (first-degree felony) and lewd and lascivious molestation of a victim 12-16 years of age (second-degree felony). He was transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility, where he is being held on a \$75,000 bond.

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