



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NEWS RELEASE

Date: August 22, 2025

Prepared by: Tonya Woodworth, Director of Public Information

Email: PIO@flaglersheriff.com

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Case Update: Florida Governor Issues Extradition Request for North Carolina to Turn Florida Fugitive Over to FCSO Custody

BUNNELL, Fla. — On August 20, 2025, Gov. Ron DeSantis issued an extradition request to the Governor of North Carolina for Florida fugitive Kermit Booth, 72, of Franklin, North Carolina. Booth had been arrested on August 1, 2025, in Macon County, North Carolina, as a fugitive from justice on a Flagler County warrant for two counts of sexual battery on a person less than 12 years of age with a Florida bond of \$500,000. This is a capital crime with a penalty of life in prison in Florida. A Macon County, N.C., magistrate set Booth's bond at \$35,000, and he posted bond and was released by Macon County, N.C., authorities.

In Governor Ron DeSantis' request, he appointed Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly to receive, convey, and transport Booth from North Carolina to Florida to be held accountable for his crimes.

"North Carolina said they would not hold this pervert for us unless we got a governor's warrant, so we got one," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "I applaud Governor Ron DeSantis for quickly issuing this extradition request, which asks North Carolina authorities to turn him over to my custody. No one is above the law, and we will not sit back and watch anyone use another state as a safe haven to hide from justice in Florida. I will always stand with our victims and fight for justice. Justice might be delayed, but with the cooperation of North Carolina Governor Josh Stein, Booth will soon be sitting in the Green Roof Inn [aka county jail]."

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North Carolina Man Arrested on Flagler County Warrant for Sexual Battery of Child

BUNNELL, Fla. —On August 1, the Macon County Sheriff's Office in North Carolina arrested Kermit Booth, 72, of Franklin, North Carolina, on a Flagler County warrant for two counts of sexual battery of a victim under 12.

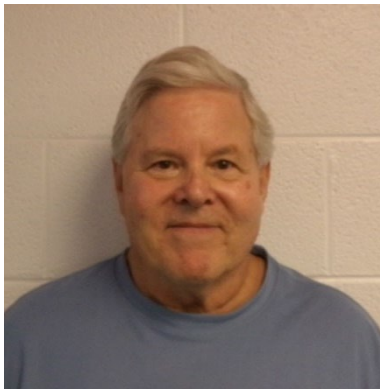
The Flagler County Sheriff's Office investigation into Booth, who has a criminal history of aggravated stalking, began after the victim's mother contacted law enforcement on February 14, 2015. According to the victim's mother, Booth solicited sexual intercourse from the victim multiple times from 2006 to 2009, during which the victim was approximately 6-to-9 years old and Booth was approximately 53-to-56 years old, but the victim refused. However, according to the victim, Booth forced the victim to perform oral sex on at least one occasion while at Booth's Palm Coast residence.

Due to significant investigative challenges, the case saw little movement for several years. In March 2023, the victim reengaged with FCSO's Major Case Unit, providing additional evidence against Booth. With the new information and using investigative means, detectives were able to relaunch the investigation and corroborate the mother's and the victim's statements. In addition, in February 2025, the FCSO Digital Forensics Unit forensically identified new evidence against Booth.

On July 29, after a thorough investigation, the FCSO obtained a warrant for Booth's arrest for sexual battery of a victim under 12. On the warrant, the bond was set at \$500,000 by a Flagler County judge. The FCSO Fugitive Unit, working with the North Carolina Macon County Sheriff's Office, located and arrested Booth on August 1 in Franklin, North Carolina, on his Flagler County warrant. He was transported to the Macon County Detention Center and initially held under a \$500,000 bond. A North Carolina judge later lowered the bond to \$35,000, and Booth posted bond with an extradition hearing scheduled for September 8.

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Kermit Booth (Macon County Detention Center mugshot)

“This case is a disturbing reminder of how predators can exploit situations to harm children,” said Sheriff Rick Staly. “While we commend the bravery of the victim and the work of our Major Case Unit in obtaining a warrant and arrest, it’s deeply troubling that a North Carolina judge chose to lower the bond set by a Florida judge. This victim waited 10 years for him to be held accountable and now this North Carolina judge has victimized our victim again by allowing him to be released before his extradition hearing on a very low bond. This is a travesty of justice and in all my years in law enforcement, I have never heard of a fugitive from justice case being handled like this by an out-of-state judge. I promise the victim we will continue to fight for justice.”

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STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXTRADITION REQUISITION AND AGENT APPOINTMENT

(To the Governor of North Carolina)

WHEREAS, it appears by the annexed application for requisition and copies of INFORMATION, AFFIDAVIT, and allied papers, which I certify are authentic and duly authenticated in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, that under the laws of this State KERMIT CARL BOOTH stands charged with the crime(s) of SEXUAL BATTERY ON PERSON LESS THAN 12 YEARS OF AGE (TWO COUNTS), committed in this State, and it has been represented and is satisfactorily shown to me that the accused was present in this State at the time of the commission of said crime(s) and thereafter fled from the justice of this State, and is now to be found in the State of NORTH CAROLINA; and

WHEREAS, I hereby appoint FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF RICK STALY and/or authorized agent(s) of the State of Florida to receive KERMIT CARL BOOTH who is in the custody/jurisdiction of MACON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA, and convey said fugitive to the State of Florida, to be dealt with according to law.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the United States, the laws of the State of Florida and the laws of the State of NORTH CAROLINA, do hereby respectfully demand that the above-named fugitive be arrested, secured and delivered to FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF RICK STALY and/or authorized agent(s) hereby authorized to receive, convey, and transport this fugitive to this State, to be dealt with according to law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 20th day of August, 2025.




RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA
Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com
850-717-9418

August 20, 2025

Angie Byrd
Extradition Secretary
North Carolina Department of Justice
P.O. Box 629
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

90th day on or about: 10/29/2025

Dear Ms. Byrd:

At the request of Governor DeSantis, I am enclosing an extradition requisition for the return of **KERMIT CARL BOOTH** to the State of Florida.

If this requisition is honored, please forward the necessary papers and the agent's appointment to the **MACON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA**, requesting them to notify the following agency when the subject is available for release to Florida:

The Honorable Rick Staly
Sheriff, Flagler County
1769 E. Moody Boulevard, Bldg. 1
Bunnell, Florida 32110
386-313-4340
judicialprocess@flaglersheriff.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brandi Manley".

Brandi Manley
Extradition Coordinator
850.717.9311

CC: Jill Seaman
Ron Mello