



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Angela Green-Sherrod

Date: February 16, 2023

Cyber Tip Leads to Man Arrested for Possession of Child Pornography

On Thursday, February 16, 2023, members of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force with the Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) executed a search warrant at a residence in the 8200 block of Little Terry Circle. The investigation was initiated when LCSO received a cyber tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), indicating an account holder of an online data storage company uploaded several images of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) to their account. The investigation revealed the account belonged to 50-year-old James Bates.

Detectives seized several electronic devices from Bates' residence as part of the search warrant. A preliminary analysis of the devices revealed 20 videos of CSAM.

Bates was arrested and transported to the Leon County Detention Facility. He was charged with 20 counts of Aggravated Possession of Child Pornography.

The investigation is still active, and anyone with information regarding this investigation is encouraged to contact the Leon County Sheriff's Office at (850) 606-3300. Citizens can also find resources at the NCMEC website: <https://www.missingkids.org/HOME>

NAME: James Bates

DOB: 12/22/1972

CHARGES:

- *Obscene Material-Possess Poss Photograph of Sexual Performance By Child (20 Counts)*



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