

CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff Carl Ritchie
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NON-EMERGENCY
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DISPATCH
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CCSO makes eight arrests in undercover ICAC sting, Operation Online Guardian

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – The Charleston County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the South Carolina Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, conducted an undercover chat operation on social media, called Operation Online Guardian, in May of this year.

The Charleston County Sheriff's Office revealed in a news conference on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, that eight men were arrested for various crimes against children as a result of Operation Online Guardian. This operation involved the Charleston County Sheriff's Office Investigative Services, the Intelligence Unit, the Forensic Services Unit, the Office of Professional Standards, Warrant Services, Victim Advocates, Patrol, SWAT, and the K-9 Unit.

"The Charleston County Sheriff's Office, alongside our dedicated partner agencies, has taken a powerful stand to protect our children and families. This operation wasn't just a success—it was a message: we will not tolerate those who prey on the vulnerable," said Charleston County Sheriff Carl Ritchie. "Thanks to the tireless efforts of our deputies and officers, Charleston County is safer today. We are committed to a future where parents can feel confident that their children are protected—online and off. This is a major step forward, and we're not stopping here."

Detective Jason Bowen with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office presented the results from Operation Online Guardian. Detective Bowen is part of the ICAC Task Force. He also works with the Sheriff's Office Special Victims Unit and is the handler for "Cypher," the Electronic Storage Detection K-9. Detective Bowen also reviewed available resources for victims and online tools for parents to help keep their children safe.

Assisting agencies include the ICAC Division of the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, the Charleston Police Department, the Mount Pleasant Police Department, the Summerville Police Department, the Goose Creek Police Department, the Concord Police Department in

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North Carolina, the Hillsborough Sheriff's Office in Florida, Homeland Security Investigations, the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Navy Criminal Investigations Service.

The charges for those arrested during Operation Online Guardian are outlined below. It is also noted which individuals traveled to meet a minor for sexual activity during the operation.

Operation Online Guardian Arrests:

Russell M. Troxell – Arrested May 14, 2025

- Traveled to meet a minor for sexual activity during Operation Online Guardian
- Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the Second Degree
- Attempted Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in the First Degree
- Criminal Solicitation of a Minor

Dominis G. Abdo – Arrested May 14, 2025

- Traveled to meet a minor for sexual activity during Operation Online Guardian
- Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the Second Degree
- Attempted Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in the First Degree
- Criminal Solicitation of a Minor
- Active duty military at time of arrest
- Will be prosecuted by NCIS under UCMJ

Omega J. Smalls – Arrested May 14, 2025

- Traveled to meet a minor for sexual activity during Operation Online Guardian
- Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the Second Degree
- Criminal Solicitation of a Minor

Jared M. Chandler – Arrested May 14, 2025

- Traveled to meet a minor for sexual activity during Operation Online Guardian
- Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the Second Degree
- Attempted Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in the First Degree
- Criminal Solicitation of a Minor

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Jason Taylor – Arrested May 16, 2025

- Traveled to meet a minor for sexual activity during Operation Online Guardian
- Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the Second Degree
- Attempted Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in the First Degree
- Criminal Solicitation of a Minor
- Resisting Arrest

Riley E. Blakely – Arrested May 16, 2025

- Traveled to meet a minor for sexual activity during Operation Online Guardian
- Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the Second Degree
- Attempted Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in the First Degree (two counts)
- Attempted Dissemination of Obscene Material to a Minor (three counts)
- Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (four counts)
- Attempted Child Luring
- Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime

Joseph Scoppettuolo – Arrested November 6, 2025

- Attempted Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in the First Degree (two counts)
- Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (five counts)

Matthew Wicker – Arrested November 13, 2025

- Criminal Solicitation of a Minor

Booking photos can be found online at <https://inmatesearch.charlestoncounty.org/>. For photos of people already released, click the "Show Past Bookings" box.

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