

# Lake County Sheriff's Office

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**John D. Idleburg**  
Sheriff

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Registered Sexual Predator Thought He Was Sending Nude Photos to Child, Possibly Communicated with Dozens of Children**

*Lake County Sheriff's Detectives believe the sexual predator sent nude photos of himself and received nude photos from children as young as nine years of age, from throughout the region and country.*

On March 15, 2021, members of the Lake County Sheriff's Office and Lake County State's Attorney's Office concluded an investigation which resulted in the arrest of a registered child sexual predator.

Steven S. Tipman, 31, of the 39400 block of North Oak Avenue, Antioch Township, is required to register his social media accounts with the Lake County Sheriff's Office, per his sexual predator reporting requirements.

Earlier this month, Lake County Sheriff's Detectives received information Tipman was communicating with who he believed were children from New York and Virginia. Undercover detectives, posing as 12-year-old girls, from the New York State Police and Virginia State Police communicated with Tipman. Tipman sent nude photos of himself to investigators he thought were the 12-year-old girls.

Lake County Sheriff's detectives obtained a search warrant for Tipman's home based on the fact he failed to register his social media accounts and was sending nude photos to who he believed to be children. During the execution of the search warrant, Lake County Sheriff's Detectives were assisted by Lake County State's Attorney's Office Investigators and Electronic Detection Canine Browser. Browser specializes in sniffing out computer electronics. Numerous computers and other electronics were seized during the search warrant and are being analyzed.

After reviewing the facts and the circumstances of the case, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges for Tipman:

Violation of Sexual Offender Act - Failure to Register a Website/Social Media Account (Class 3 Felony)

Grooming (Class 4 Felony)

Unlawful Contact with a Child by a Child Sexual Offender (Class 4 Felony)

Tipman remains held in the Lake County Jail on \$500,000.00 bond. He is next due in court on April 6, 2021 at 1:30PM in courtroom T020. Additional charges are likely.

Based on information and evidence gathered during the search warrant, detectives believe Tipman has communicated with dozens of children and exchanged nude photos with them. Tipman primarily used the applications ‘Snapchat,’ ‘Meet24,’ and ‘OkCupid’ to meet and begin conversations with the children.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg reminds parents to always be cognizant of what your children are doing online. “Throughout this pandemic, children have been utilizing technology more than ever before. While there are great benefits to technology, it is important to remember child predators often lurk in the shadows of the internet. Remember to check the content inside of applications used by your children and I recommend that electronics should always be charged overnight somewhere other than your child’s bedroom,” said Sheriff Idleburg.

State’s Attorney Eric Rinehart said, “I want to commend the sheriff’s office and our investigative team who assisted. We are committed to working with law enforcement to protect children and to ensure the community’s safety,” Rinehart said. “To those who would use computers and the internet to prey on children, we will find you, and bring you to justice.”

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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