



Gulfport Police Department News Release



Subject: Sexual Battery Arrest (Multiple Victims under 12 Years of Age)

Date: 12/31/17

Narrative

Following an investigation that began with a call to police just after noon on 12/30, Joseph Blaze Forgetta, DOB 02/09/1960, of Gulfport was arrested at 9:35 PM and charged with the following offenses (additional charges may be pending):

2 counts of sexual battery of a child under the age of 12

1 count lewd and lascivious molestation of a child under the age of 12

2 counts production of child pornography

The situation was reported to police after a girl under the age of 12 told her mother that Forgetta had committed a sex act with her the previous evening. The victim and two other children were staying the night together at the home of a family member who is involved in a relationship with Forgetta.

Subsequent investigation revealed at least one other victim, also under the age of 12, who Forgetta had committed sex acts with on two previous occasions during the past year, including taking photos and video during the incidents.

Police have reason to believe there may be additional victims, particularly among those who may live near Forgetta in the area of 52nd Street and 29th Avenue South. If you have information or questions, please contact Detective Jennifer Crowson at 727-893-1043.



Sergeant Thomas Woodman, Public Information Officer
727-893-1051 (office)
727-582-6177 (communications center)
twoodman@mygulfport.us