



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd. • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 • www.gulfsheriff.com
850-227-1115 • 850-639-5717 • Fax 850-227-2097

Contact: Capt. Chris Buchanan
Telephone: 850-227-1115
Email: cbuchanan@gcso.fl.gov

PRESS RELEASE
April 19, 2018

MAN ARRESTED ON SEXUAL BATTERY AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Gulf County Sheriff Mike Harrison announces the arrest of Clark Gilbert Downs (69) of Port St. Joe. Downs' arrest is the result of an ongoing investigation which began on March 18, 2018, after Investigator L. Dickey received information regarding an alleged sexual assault of a victim under the age of eighteen and an incident that occurred four years ago involving a victim who was under the age of eighteen at the time.

During the investigation, probable cause was developed and a warrant for Downs' arrest was obtained for using a computer to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child. Downs' used Facebook Messenger to receive and solicit inappropriate photographs of the victim personally known by him. On April 18, Investigators arrived at Downs' residence on St. Joe Beach to execute a search warrant and to take Downs into custody. Multiple computers and electronic devices were seized as evidence for further analysis. Special Agents from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and analyst from the FDLE Computer Crime Center assisted in the execution of the search warrant. A preview of Downs' computer at the scene revealed photographs he took in November 2014 of the second victim in the case. The pictures corroborated information provided by the victim. The discovery of the photographs led to additional charges of sexual battery on a person twelve year of age or older, lewd or lascivious molestation of a victim twelve year of age or older, and eleven counts of possession of child pornography.

The computers and electronic devices seized will be analyzed by the FDLE Computer Crime Center and additional charges are anticipated. Downs was booked into the Gulf County Detention Facility and released today on a \$110,000 bond.

Prepared by: Capt. Chris Buchanan
Approved by: Sheriff Mike Harrison