



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, South Carolina
29221-1398

Henry D. McMaster, Governor
Mark A. Keel, Chief

Tel: (803) 737-9000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 10, 2022

Contact: Renée Wunderlich
(803) 260 – 3020
rwunderlich@sled.sc.gov

**SLED CHARGES FORT LAWN MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE WITH
ONE COUNT OF SECOND-DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR,
AND TWO COUNTS OF THIRD-DEGREE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR**

Agents with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) arrested Johnny Ray Steele, 75, of Lancaster, SC for one count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – Second Degree and two counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – Third Degree.

SLED was requested to investigate by the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office.

Details from the investigation can be found in the attached warrant.

Steele was booked at the Lancaster County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the SC Attorney General's Office.

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An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency



ARREST WARRANT

2022A2910102515

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Lancaster

THE STATE against

1521928

Johnny Ray Steele

Address: [Redacted] Lancaster, SC 29720-7619

Phone: [Redacted] SSN: [Redacted] Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 10 Weight: 210 DL State: SC DL #: [Redacted] DOB: [Redacted] 1947 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000 Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division Prosecuting Officer: Allison C Fitzgerald - S00567 Offense: Sex / Sexual exploitation of a minor, Second degree Offense Code: 0380 Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-15-0405(A)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the [] County/ [] Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant Johnny Steele on 11/9/22

[Signature] Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions 104 N. Main St. P O Box 1809 Lancaster, SC 29720

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA [X] County/ [] Municipality of Lancaster

AFFIDAVIT

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Form Approved by S.C. Attorney General April 21, 2003 SCCA 518

Personally appeared before me the affiant Allison C Fitzgerald who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Johnny Ray Steele did within this county and state on or about 8/4/2022 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Lancaster) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Sexual exploitation of a minor, Second degree

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

That Johnny Steele did while at [Redacted] Lancaster County, South Carolina, on or about August 4, 2022 at 11:23 a.m., use the victim, [Redacted] iPhone to text a photo of [Redacted] in a state of sexually explicit nudity to his personal iPhone and save it in his camera roll. The photo depicts [Redacted] in a state of sexually explicit nudity with [Redacted] completely exposed that would infer the purpose of sexual stimulation. Steele had previously had other sexually explicit photos of [Redacted] deleted from his phone on July 20, 2022 during an interview with SLED S/A Fitzgerald and was expressly told they were inappropriate to have in his possession.

Signature of Affiant

[Signature]

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA [X] County/ [] Municipality of Lancaster

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398 Columbia, SC 29221- Affiant's Telephone (803)896-7250

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 8/4/2022 defendant Johnny Ray Steele did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Lancaster) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Sexual exploitation of a minor, Second degree

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 11/4/2022 [Signature] Signature of Issuing Judge Curtisha M. Ingram Judge Code: 7352

(L.S.)

Judge's Address Lancaster Central Traffic Court Lancaster, SC 29721- Judge's Telephone (803)283-3983

Issuing Court: [X] Magistrate [] Municipal [] Circuit

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ARREST WARRANT

2022A2910102516

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Lancaster

THE STATE 32-22-0060 against

Johnny Ray Steele

Address: [redacted] Lancaster, SC 29720-7619

Phone: [redacted] SSN: [redacted] Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 10 Weight: 210 DL State: SC DL #: [redacted] DOB: [redacted] 1947 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000 Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division Prosecuting Officer: Allison C Fitzgerald - S00567 Offense: Sex / Sexual exploitation of a minor, Third degree

Offense Code: 0381 Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-15-0410(A)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the [] County/ [] Municipality of [redacted]. The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date: [redacted]

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant Johnny Steele on 11/9/22 [redacted] Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO: General Sessions 104 N. Main St. P O Box 1809 Lancaster, SC 29720

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Lancaster

Personally appeared before me the affiant Allison C Fitzgerald who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Johnny Ray Steele did within this county and state on or about 8/5/2022 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Lancaster) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Sexual exploitation of a minor, Third degree

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

That Johnny Steele did while at [redacted] Lancaster County, South Carolina, on August 5, 2022 possess on his personal iPhone photos of the victim, [redacted] in a state of sexually explicit nudity. Fifteen (15) photos located in Steele's iPhone saved in the Notes application contained images of [redacted] in various states of undress, to include two images of sexually explicit nudity showing [redacted]'s completely exposed [redacted] which could be inferred for the purpose of sexual stimulation. Steele had previously had the same sexually explicit photos of [redacted] deleted from his phone on July 20, 2022 during an interview with SLED S/A Fitzgerald and was expressly told they were inappropriate to have in his possession and Steele denied they were anywhere else on the phone.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Lancaster

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398 Columbia, SC 29221- Affiant's Telephone (803)896-7250

ARREST WARRANT

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It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 8/5/2022 defendant Johnny Ray Steele did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Lancaster) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Sexual exploitation of a minor, Third degree

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on 11/4/2022

Signature of Issuing Judge Curtisha M. Ingram

Judge Code: 7352

Judge's Address Lancaster Central Traffic Court Lancaster, SC 29721- Judge's Telephone (803)283-3983

Issuing Court: [X] Magistrate [] Municipal [] Circuit

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ARREST WARRANT

2022A2910102517

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Lancaster

THE STATE 32-22-0060 against

Johnny Ray Steele

Address: [Redacted] Lancaster, SC 29720-7619

Phone: [Redacted] SSN: [Redacted] Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 10 Weight: 210 DL State: SC DL #: [Redacted] DOB: [Redacted] 1947 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000 Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division Prosecuting Officer: Allison C Fitzgerald - S00567 Offense: Sex / Sexual exploitation of a minor, Third degree

Offense Code: 0381 Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-15-0410(A)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the [] County/ [] Municipality of . The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date: _____

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant Johnny Steele on 11/19/22

[Signature] Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions 104 N. Main St. P O Box 1809 Lancaster, SC 29720

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

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DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Sexual exploitation of a minor, Third degree

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

That Johnny Steele did while at [Redacted] in Lancaster County, South Carolina, on August 5, 2022 possess on his personal iPhone photos of the victim, [Redacted] in a state of sexually explicit nudity. Fifteen (15) photos located in Steele's iPhone saved in the Notes application contained images of [Redacted] in various states of undress, to include two images of sexually explicit nudity showing [Redacted]'s completely exposed [Redacted] which could be inferred for the purpose of sexual stimulation. Steele had previously had the same sexually explicit photos of [Redacted] deleted from his phone on July 20, 2022 during an interview with SLED S/A Fitzgerald and was expressly told they were inappropriate to have in his possession and Steele denied they were anywhere else on the phone.

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[Signature]

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Lancaster

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Judge's Address Lancaster Central Traffic Court Lancaster, SC 29721-

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Issuing Court: [X] Magistrate [] Municipal [] Circuit

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