



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
April 5, 2023

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information
(803) 260 – 3020
rwunderlich@sled.sc.gov

SLED CHARGES JASPER COUNTY MAN WITH KIDNAPPING AND CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT

Agents with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged John Steven Reynovel Metzler, 44, of Hardeeville, SC, on March 24, 2023, with Kidnapping and Criminal Sexual Conduct – 1st degree.

Details can be found in the attached warrants.

Metzler was booked at the Jasper County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

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An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency



ARREST WARRANT

2023A2710200085

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Jasper

THE STATE against

31230028

John Steven Reynovel Metzler

Address:

Hardeeville, SC 29927-5919

Phone: SSN Sex: M Race: U Height: 6 Weight: 218

DL State: SC DL #: DOB: 1978 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jeb R Fay - S00592

Offense: Kidnapping / Kidnapping

Offense Code: 0095

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-03-0910

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

on 3/24/23 @ 1245 PM

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions 265 Russell Street Po Box 248 Ridgeland, SC 299360248

ORIGINAL

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ORIGINAL

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

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

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

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jeb R Fay who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant John Steven Reynovel Metzler

did within this county and state on or about 3/15/2023 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Jasper)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Kidnapping / Kidnapping

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 on or about March 15, 2023 the defendant John Steven Reynovel Metzler; did willingly, knowingly, and feloniously violate S.C. statute of Kidnapping 16-03-0910 with malice aforethought, while in the rural parts of Jasper County, SC in the following particulars: On March 15, 2023 after meeting the defendant, the victim did agree to ride with him to another gathering that night in Georgia. He did deprive the victim of [] cellphone while riding in van. The defendant drove the victim to Jasper County, SC where [] clothing was ripped off [] body and [] was sexually assaulted and strangled multiple times. The victim attempted to escape several times but was unable to get away. The victim was eventually dumped out of the U-Haul van by the defendant on Alligator Aly within Jasper County, SC. The victim was completely naked when [] was discovered and had multiple wounds consistent with the assault that [] described. (See attachment)

Signature of Affiant

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

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398 Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

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 3/15/2023 defendant John Steven Reynovel Metzler

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Jasper) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Kidnapping / Kidnapping

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 3/16/2023

Signature of Issuing Judge Rhonda Yvonne Edwards (Magistrate)

Judge Code: 7463

Judge's Address

Ridgeland, SC 29936-

Judge's Telephone (843)726-5800

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

ORIGINAL

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF JASPER

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before me, a magistrate of this county, one S/A Jeb Fay of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that John Steven Reynovel Metzler. (male, height: 6'00 / weight: approximately 218 / SCDL# [REDACTED] / DOB [REDACTED]-1978) did within this county and state on or about March 15, 2023 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE

Kidnapping
16-03-0910

The affiant states there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based upon the following facts:

That on or about March 15, 2023 the defendant John Steven Reynovel Metzler.; did willingly, knowingly, and feloniously violate S.C. statute of Kidnapping (16-03-0910) with malice aforethought, while in the rural parts of Jasper County, SC in the following particulars:

On March 15, 2023 after meeting the defendant the victim did agree to ride with him to another gathering that night in Georgia. While in the U-Haul van the defendant was operating, he did deprive the victim of [REDACTED] cellphone. The defendant drove the victim to a secluded area within Jasper County, SC where [REDACTED] clothing was ripped off [REDACTED] body and [REDACTED] was sexually assaulted and strangled multiple times. The victim attempted to escape several times but was unable to get away. The victim was eventually dumped out of the U-Haul van by the defendant on Alligator Aly within Jasper County, SC. The victim was completely naked when [REDACTED] was discovered and had multiple wounds consistent with the assault that [REDACTED] described. The victim identified the suspect in a photographic line-up.

The above facts are true and believable based on witness and victim's statements and the investigation conducted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of March, 2023

[Signature]
Affiant
104 Simmons Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

Signature of Judge [Signature]

2023 A2710200085

2023 A2710200085

ARREST WARRANT

2023A2710200084

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Jasper

THE STATE

31230028

against

John Steven Reynovel Metzler

Address: [REDACTED]

Hardeeville, SC 29927-5919

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: U Height: 6 Weight: 218

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 1978 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jeb R Fay - S00592

Offense: Sex / Criminal sexual conduct - First degree

Offense Code: 0160

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-03-0652

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the [X] 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: [REDACTED]

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant John Metzler on 3/24/23 @ 1245pm

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
265 Russell Street
Po Box 248
Ridgeland, SC 299360248

ORIGINAL

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ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Jasper

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jeb R Fay wh

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant John Steven Reynovel Metzler

did within this county and state on or about 3/15/2023 violate the criminal laws of th

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Jasper

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Criminal sexual conduct - First 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 on or about March 15, 2023 the defendant John Steven Reynovel Metzler; did willingly, knowingly, and feloniously violate S.C. statute of Criminal Sexual Conduct First Degree (16-03-0652) with malice aforethought, while in the rural parts of Jasper County, SC in the following particulars: On March 15, 2023 after meeting the defendant, the victim did agree to ride with him to another gathering that night in Georgia. He did deprive the victim of [REDACTED] cellphone while riding in van.. The defendant drove the victim to Jasper County, SC where [REDACTED] clothing was ripped off [REDACTED] body and [REDACTED] was sexually assaulted and strangled multiple times. The victim attempted to escape several times but was unable to get away. The victim was eventually dumped out of the U-Haul van by the defendant on Alligator Aly within Jasper County, SC. The victim was completely naked when [REDACTED] was discovered and had multiple wounds consistent with the assault that [REDACTED] described. (See attachment)

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Jasper

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

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 3/15/2023 defendant John Steven Reynovel Metzler

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

[X] County/ [] Municipality of Jasper) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Criminal sexual conduct - First 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 3/16/2023

Signature of Issuing Judge Rhonda Yvonne Edwards (Magistrate)

Rhonda Yvonne Edwards (Magistrate)

Judge Code: 7463

Judge's Address

Ridgeland, SC 29936-

Judge's Telephone (843)726-5800

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

SLED Case # 31-23-0028

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF JASPER

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before me, a magistrate of this county, one S/A Jeb Fay of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that John Steven Reynovel Metzler. (male, height: 6'00 / weight: approximately 218 / SCDL# [REDACTED] / DOB [REDACTED]-1978) did within this county and state on or about March 15, 2023 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE

Criminal Sexual Conduct First Degree
16-03-0652

The affiant states there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based upon the following facts:

That on or about March 15, 2023 the defendant John Steven Reynovel Metzler.; did willingly, knowingly, and feloniously violate S.C. statute of Criminal Sexual Conduct First Degree (16-03-0652) with malice aforethought, while in the rural parts of Jasper County, SC in the following particulars:

On March 15, 2023 after meeting the defendant, the victim did agree to ride with him to another gathering that night in Georgia. While in the U-Haul van the defendant was operating, he did deprive the victim of [REDACTED] cellphone. The defendant drove the victim to a secluded area within Jasper County, SC where her clothing was ripped off [REDACTED] body and [REDACTED] was sexually assaulted and strangled multiple times. The victim attempted to escape several times but was unable to get away. The victim was eventually dumped out of the U-Haul van by the defendant on Alligator Aly within Jasper County, SC. The victim was completely naked when [REDACTED] was discovered and had multiple wounds consistent with the assault that [REDACTED] described. The victim identified the suspect in a photographic line-up.

The above facts are true and believable based on witness and victim's statements and the investigation conducted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16 day of March, 2023

[Signature]
Affiant
104 Simmons Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

Signature of Judge [Signature] DSL

2023A2710200084

2023A27102000811