



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
October 3, 2024

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information
rwunderlich@sled.sc.gov

SLED CHARGES BEAUFORT COUNTY MAN WITH CRIMINAL SOLICITATION OF A MINOR

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged Harvey Mackenzie Bethea, 35, with Criminal Solicitation of a Minor on Wednesday, October 2, 2024. The SLED investigation was requested by the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office.

Details can be found in the attached warrant.

Bethea was booked into the Beaufort County Detention Center.

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

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ARREST WARRANT

2024A0710400241

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Beaufort

THE STATE

31-24-0043

against

Harvey Mackenzie Bethea

Address:

Bluffton, SC 29910-7204

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 4 Weight: 198

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: 1989 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Rebecca L Gregg - S01268

Offense: Minor / Criminal solicitation of a minor

Offense Code: 2999

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-15-0342

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 Harvey Bethea on 10/27/2024

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Beaufort County General Sessions
PO Box 1128
102 Ribaut Road, Rm. 208
Beaufort, SC 299011128

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ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Beaufort

Personally appeared before me the affiant Rebecca L Gregg who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Harvey Mackenzie Bethea

did within this county and state on or about 3/13/2024 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Beaufort) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Minor / Criminal solicitation of a minor

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:

SEE ATTACHED

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Beaufort

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 3/13/2024 defendant Harvey Mackenzie Bethea

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Beaufort) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Minor / Criminal solicitation of a minor

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 9/30/2024

Signature of Issuing Judge

LaShonda Green Scott

Judge Code: 7331

(L.S.)

Judge's Address Post Office Box 840

Bluffton, SC 29910-

Judge's Telephone (843)255-5610

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF BEAUFORT

AFFIDAVIT

SLED Case# 31-24-0043 *AK*
Warrant# *2024 AP 7 104 0024*

Personally appeared before me, a magistrate of this county, one Special Agent Rebecca Gregg of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), who, first being duly sworn, deposes and says that defendant **HARVEY MACKENZIE BETHEA** (white male, DOB: [REDACTED] 1989), did within this county and state on March 13, 2024, through March 20, 2024, did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE Criminal Solicitation of a Minor 16-15-342

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 13, 2024, through March 20, 2024, in the County of Beaufort, State of South Carolina, the aforesaid, one **Harvey Makenzie Bethea** did commit the crime of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (16-15-342). The defendant did willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously repeatedly ask the 16-year-old victim to engage in and/or participate in oral intercourse and sex.

The facts to establish the aforementioned are the defendant had employed the sixteen-year-old victim to [REDACTED] while the defendant and [REDACTED] left for work. The defendant repeatedly returned to the residence during the day at which time he asked the victim what she would do in exchange for a puppy. When the victim advised she would pay for the puppy, the defendant proceeded to ask her if she would have sex with him or if she would suck his "dick." The defendant advised the victim that he would do the sexual acts to her if she was not comfortable doing them to him. The defendant repeatedly propositioned the victim over the course of several days. On March 21, 2024, the victim stopped working for the defendant and [REDACTED] and reported the incidents to law enforcement.

The above information was revealed through the investigation conducted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, all to provide the same against the form of the statue in such case made and provided against the peace and dignity of the state.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this *30th* day of *September*, 2024,

[Signature]
Signature of Judge

[Signature]
Affiant
SLED Low Country Region
104 Simmons Street
Walterboro, S. C. 29488
Ofc# (843) 782-3822