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46TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Eric M. Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney
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Date: December 15, 2022

JURY CONVICTS DOUGLASS HOWARD OF CHILD SEDUCTION

Muncie Indiana – Today a Delaware County jury deliberated for a little more than an hour before convicting Douglass M. Howard (DOB 10/22/1967) of Child Seduction, a Level 5 Felony. A copy of the Affidavit of Probable Cause for Arrest that was filed in the case is attached. The Honorable Thomas A. Cannon Jr., Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 5 set sentencing for January 30, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Pursuant to Indiana law a Level 5 Felony is punishable by 1 – 6 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine. After the verdict was returned, Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney Eric M. Hoffman said “I am proud of Deputy Prosecutor Steve Sneed and Douglas Mawhorr, Prosecutor Investigator Gala Laughner, and Lt. Rick Richman of the Delaware County Sheriff’s Department for their hard work and dedication in this case.”



Douglass M.
Howard

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Arrest PC 20-882

STATE OF INDIANA)
DELAWARE COUNTY)
IN THE DELAWARE COUNTY COURT SYSTEM
2020 TERM

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT

COMES NOW: Rodrick Richman, a police officer of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, and being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says that the following described person was arrested, without Warrant upon the charge(s) and circumstances herein after stated, and makes this affidavit for the purpose of establishing probable cause for said arrest.

NAME OF ARRESTEE: Douglas M. Howard D.O.B. 10-22-67

ADDRESS OF ARRESTEE: 2480 E. SR 38 New Castle, IN 47362

DATE OF ARREST: 01-16-2020 TIME OF ARREST: 4:40 AM PM

Table with 6 rows and 4 columns: CHARGES, Description, Class, and Felony/Misdemeanor options. Row 1: Child Seduction, a class, 5, Felony (checked), Misdemeanor.

The basis and reasons why this officer believes that said arrestee committed the aforesaid offense(s) in Delaware County, State of Indiana, are as follows:

On January 13, 2020 at approximately 4:00pm Lt. Rick Richman was advised by dispatch to contacted Henry County Deputy Rob Moore. When Lt. Richman called Deputy Moore he stated that a juvenile female had reported she had found inappropriate text messages on her father's cell phone. These messages were between her father and her brother. When Henry County deputies spoke with the brother he stated there was a sexual incident that had occurred when they lived in Delaware County when he was 16. Deputy Moore stated the victim, who is now at least 18 years of age, was willing to talk with Lt. Richman about this incident. Lt. Richman went the investigative unit of the Henry County Sheriff's Office and met with Deputy Moore and the victim. Lt. Richman began interviewing the victim about what had been reported. The victim stated that his adoptive father, Douglas Howard, had recently been sending him messages trying to allow him (Mr. Howard) to performing oral sex on the victim or the victim perform oral sex on Mr. Howard.

I affirm under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my information and belief.

DATE: 01-16-2020 Officer: [Signature]

JUDICIAL DETERMINATION

The undersigned, being a judicial officer of Delaware County, and having reviewed the foregoing affidavit, now determines that probable cause existed for the arrest of said arrestee, and now fixes bail in the penal sum of \$

Dated: Signed: Title:

PRE-INITIAL HEARING INFORMATION

Pre-initial Hearing Date: Charges to be filed by Date: Time:

STATE OF INDIANA)
DELAWARE COUNTY)
IN THE DELAWARE COUNTY COURT SYSTEM
2020 TERM

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NARRATIVE CONTINUED:

The victim stated there had only been one time that sexual contact had occurred between him and his father. That incident occurred when he was 16 at a "storage" mobile home beside a property in the 3700 block of E. Wilson Rd. in Muncie, IN. The victim stated prior to this incident his father would constantly be asking for sexual things that the victim continued to deny. Because the victim would not comply with Mr. Howard's requests he (Mr. Howard) would not allow the victim to do things or would take privileges away from the victim.

On a day in October 2017 the victim stated he and Mr. Howard were working outside at the "storage" mobile home. Mr. Howard was upset with the victim because of the lack of work he had gotten completed. The victim stated Mr. Howard said something close to, "when I get done with his cigarette your done if this doesn't happen. You won't ever have anything". The victim said "I'm done with this" Mr. Howard said "if your done with it go into the bathroom then". The victim said he then went to the bathroom. After about 5-10 minutes Mr. Howard came into the bathroom. Mr. Howard unbuttoned the victim's pants and pulled the victim 's shorts and jeans down to his knees and performed oral sex on him. Mr. Howard stayed fully dressed during the incident. After a period of time the victim said it began hurting and he made Mr. Howard stop. The victim pulled his pants up and walked out.

The victim stated that about 10-15 minutes after walking out of the bathroom Mr. Howard told him "Thank you" and that he was proud of him.

After that incident Mr. Howard bought a truck for the victim. Then when the victim wouldn't consent to any more sexual activity Mr. Howard sold the truck. The victim stated Mr. Howard continues to use these tactics to try and get him to do more sexual activity with him. This has included not allowing him to participate in school activities or do thing with friends.

Also on January 13, 2020 Lt. Richman interviewed Mr. Howard at the Henry County Sheriff's Office. At approximately 8:13pm Lt. Richman read Mr. Howard his Miranda warning. Mr. Howard stated he understood the warning, signed the warning, and agreed to speak with Lt. Richman.

Mr. Howard stated that they had lived in Muncie on Wilson Rd. during the same time frame that the victim had indicated. He stated they also had a mobile home that he used to store things.

When confronted with some of the recent text messages he sent to the victim's phone, Mr. Howard admitted to wanting to participate in an activity that would cause Mr. Howard and the victim to be touching one another. When asked about other text messages he sent to the victim he also admitted wanting to take pictures of the victim with an erection. Mr. Howard stated he enjoyed seeing this believed this would make the victim feel more masculine. Mr. Howard denied performing oral sex on the victim. He also denied any sexual contact with the victim.