



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Red Lake man indicted for sexually abusing a child

A 21-year-old Red Lake man was indicted yesterday in federal court for allegedly sexually abusing a 7-year-old girl.

Lawrence William Kingbird was charged April 16 with one count of abusive sexual contact. Kingbird's indictment alleges that on March 12 he did knowingly engage in sexual contact with a person who at that time had not attained the age of 12 years. Specifically, the indictment alleges that the defendant's sexual contact involved intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, with the intent to abuse and gratify the defendant's sexual desire.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, on March 12 Kingbird was drinking alcohol with several others at a residence. The victim's family later forced entry into a locked room to find Kingbird with the victim without his shirt on. The victim told authorities that she had been sleeping and awoke to Kingbird touching her.

If convicted, Kingbird faces a potential maximum penalty of life in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI and the Red Lake Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lisa D. Kirkpatrick.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.