

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

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## **AMHERST MAN CHARGED WITH SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS**

BUFFALO, N.Y.– U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Kenneth Graham, 24, of Amherst, N.Y., was arrested and charged by Criminal Complaint with sex trafficking of minors. The charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, a maximum of life, and a \$250,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert C. Moscati, who is handling the case, stated that according to the Criminal Complaint, between 2010 and August 2012, the defendant recruited, promoted and profited from the prostitution activities of two minor girls knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact, that the girls were under the age of 18. Graham also recruited, promoted and profited from a third victim, a woman in her 20's.

The Complaint further alleges that the defendant placed advertisements on the web site backpage.com. One ad cited in the Complaint read “Amazingly Sexy Sweet Petite Companion 20 working out of the airport area.” The acts took place in various hotels in the towns of Amherst and Cheektowaga. The Complaint further states that customers were charged \$100 per half hour and \$150 per hour.

Also according to the Complaint, one of the minor female victims claims that Graham kidnaped her for a week and physically assaulted her.

“Human trafficking, in particular the sex trafficking of minors, is something that our Office takes very seriously,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. “This defendant used physical threats to try and control these victims and now he will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Any individual who considers similar behavior will also be prosecuted and faces a potential life sentence if convicted.”

"This arrest is the result of the great partnership HSI has with our law enforcement partners in Western New York in our unyielding resolve to bring human traffickers to justice," said James C. Spero, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, Special Agent in Charge. "Sordid tales of human trafficking come to light every day. But because human trafficking is so widespread, no one entity can adequately address the problems it presents. Law enforcement

throughout New York is committed to giving victims the help they need to come forward and help us end human trafficking. We remind the general public to be vigilant, and report any signs of human trafficking to law enforcement.”

The arrest was the result of an investigation on the part of members of the Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero, the Amherst Police Department, under the direction of Chief John Askey, the Cheektowaga Police Department, under the direction of Chief David Zack, and the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of Commissioner Daniel Derenda.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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