

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Middle District of Florida

United States of America)

v.)

Case No.)

3:16-mj- 1132-JRK)

JEREMY LEE HUGHES)

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of April 1, 2016 to April 6, 2016 in the county of St. Johns in the
Middle District of Florida, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

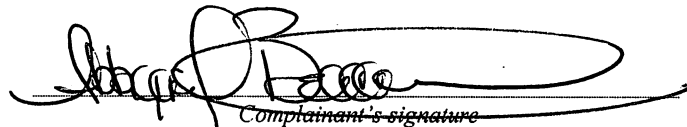
Offense Description

18 U.S.C. § 2422(b)

Attempted online enticement of a minor for illegal sexual activity.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached Affidavit.

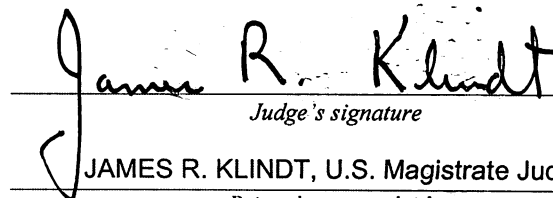
☒ Continued on the attached sheet.


Complainant's signature

Abigail Beccaccio, Special Agent, FBI

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 5-2-16City and state: Jacksonville, Florida


Judge's signature

JAMES R. KLINDT, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT

I, Abbigail Beccaccio, being duly sworn, state as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent (SA) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and have been so employed since May 2012. I am currently assigned to the Jacksonville, Florida Division of the FBI where I conduct a variety of investigations in the area of violent crimes. Prior to this assignment, I was employed as Forensics and Technology Unit Supervisor with the Orlando Police Department for approximately 8 years. I have a Bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology & Microbiology. I have received law enforcement training from the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia. A substantial portion of my duties are dedicated to investigating cases involving crimes against children under the auspices of the FBI's "Innocent Images" National Initiative and the Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood program. Since becoming a Special Agent, I have worked with experienced Special Agents who also investigate child exploitation offenses. In the performance of my duties, I have investigated and assisted in the investigation of matters involving the advertisement for, possession, collection, production, receipt, and/or transportation of images of child pornography and the solicitation and extortion of children to produce sexually explicit images of themselves. I have been involved in searches of residences pertaining to the advertisement for, possession, collection, production, and/or transportation of child pornography through either the execution of search warrants or through the subject providing written consent to permit a search to be conducted.

2. I have investigated and assisted in the investigation of criminal matters involving the sexual exploitation of children that constituted violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2251, 2252, 2252A, 2422, and 2423, as well as Florida state statutes that criminalize sexual activity with minors and other methods of child sexual exploitation. In connection with such investigations, I have served as case agent, have been the affiant for several search warrants and conducted interviews of defendants and witnesses, and have served as an undercover agent in online child exploitation cases. Specifically, during the course of my official duties, I have assumed the persona of a minor child and engaged in online conversations and telephone conversations with adult individuals who expressed interest in engaging in illegal sexual activity with minor children. I am a member of a local child exploitation task force comprised of the FBI, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, and the Clay County Sheriff's Office, among other agencies. These agencies routinely share information involving the characteristics of child sex offenders as well as investigative techniques and leads. As a federal agent, I am authorized to investigate and assist in the prosecution of violations of laws of the United States, and to execute search warrants and arrest warrants issued by federal and state courts.

3. The statements contained in this affidavit are based on my personal knowledge as well as on information provided to me by other law enforcement officers. This affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause for the filing of a criminal complaint, and I have not included each and every fact known to me

concerning this investigation. I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause that JEREMY LEE HUGHES has committed a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2422(b), that is, the attempted online enticement of a person whom he believed to be a minor child to engage in illegal sexual activity.

4. This affidavit is made in support of a criminal complaint against JEREMY LEE HUGHES, charging that from on or about March 31, 2016 through on or about April 6, 2016, in St. Johns County, in the Middle District of Florida and elsewhere, JEREMY LEE HUGHES, using a facility of interstate commerce, that is, by cellular telephone and computer via the internet, did knowingly and willfully attempt to persuade, induce, entice, and coerce a person whom defendant believed had not reached the age of 18 years, to engage in sexual activity for which a person can be charged with a criminal offense under the laws of the state of Florida, that is, the crime of lewd or lascivious battery upon a person less than 16 years of age, in violation of Sections 800.04(4)(a) and 800.04(4)(b), Florida Statutes, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b).

5. From March 31, 2016, to April 3, 2016, I, together with other law enforcement officers, participated in a regional operation designed to identify and target adult individuals who were seeking to make contact with and engage in sexual activity with minors. While working online in an undercover capacity, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJCSO) Sergeant Steven G. Gazdick, who is cross-sworn as a FBI Task Force Officer told me that he was communicating with an individual later identified as JEREMY LEE HUGHES. In summary, Sergeant Gazdick advised me of the information that follows herein. Sergeant Gazdick also provided me with documentation and evidence

generated during his investigation, including an advertisement that he posted in the classified section of a particular classifieds advertising website, copies of emails exchanged between him (in an undercover capacity) and JEREMY LEE HUGHES, a recorded phone call between him and HUGHES, and logs of online text messages exchanged between him (in an undercover capacity) and HUGHES. I have reviewed all of these items, and have had numerous conversations about this investigation with Sergeant Gazdick, both in person and by telephone. During the course of this investigation and through these sources of information, I have learned the following:

a. On March 31, 2016, Sergeant Gazdick posted an advertisement on a classifieds advertising website for the Brunswick, Georgia area that read: "Special Needs Need Special Attention - w4m (ask me) – Looking for some assistance with a special needs situation. Looking for someone open minded and very discreet. Must be DDF (exceptions for 420) looking for LTR or FWB under the right circumstances. Please be real and open minded, no fakers, creepers or pic whores please!"

b. At 12:51 a.m. on April 1, 2016, an individual using the screen name "Jeremy Hughes" (subsequently identified as JEREMY LEE HUGHES) and a classified advertising website email account, sent an email to Sergeant Gazdick that read, "Hi, iam a wm 41 yrs old. Dd free except 420. How are u".

c. On April 1, 2016 at 12:51 a.m., Sergeant Gazdick, using the persona "A. M." and the email address "____6@gmail.com" responded: "Hey, I am hoping to find someone who can help me out. I have custody of my 14 year old niece and she is new to the area, she is also deaf and is having a hard time making friends. She is very

curious and is asking me to help her make a special friend that will teach her things that I cannot."

d. Also on April 1, 2016, a series of emails were exchanged between HUGHES and Sergeant Gazdick (using his undercover online persona "A. M.") that read as follows:

HUGHES: Like what

Gazdick: Well what do you think it means?

HUGHES: What area are u located

Gazdick: North Florida, reached out far on purpose, don't want to see you in church on Sunday if you know what i mean

HUGHES: I work 3 days a week in jax

Gazdick: That's cool

HUGHES: Can we text?

Gazdick: You wanna text E_____ and see if you guys hit it off? She gets to weigh in too.

HUGHES: What is her name? How far from Jacksonville are you. I can give you a number yall can text
Yes i can text her

Gazdick: Her name is E_____, she goes by E_____ her # is XXX-XXX-XXX I'm not much for texting, I'm old school

HUGHES: Is she up now

Gazdick: oops ur right might be better tomorrow, i think shes in bed already, didn't realize how late it is

HUGHES: Ok does she go to school? Can u tell me a little more about her situation like why is she with you and why on cl?
You can take down ur cl ad ill text her in the morning

Gazdick: sounds good, logging off now i have to work in the morning, she'll be around in the afternoon, she has school work to do

HUGHES: I texted her twice she didn't respond

Gazdick: Sorry we just got home, she should have her phone charged up now, if you're interested, if not that's cool.

HUGHES: Can i have ur permission for E_____ and i to trade pics

e. Sergeant Gazdick provided a particular telephone number to HUGHES for the purpose of exchanging text messages with the "child," which was a telephone number which had been prepared for use during this type of this type of investigation. A short time later, the online conversation between HUGHES and "A. M." transitioned from the classifieds advertising website email over to text messaging between HUGHES and "E_____", referred to herein as the "child." Sergeant Gazdick, using an undercover persona as "A. M." and an undercover persona as the "child," exchanged all text messages with HUGHES over the internet using a particular computer program designed for use by law enforcement. Based on my training and experience, I know that cellular telephones and the internet are facilities of interstate commerce.

f. Also on April 1, 2016 at 10:51:26 A.M., 4:38:14 P.M. and 6:30:59 P.M., the "child" received a text messages from HUGHES using the telephone number 904-XXX-XXXX that read, "Hi," "Hello is this e_____", and "Hi" respectively. The "child" responded, "hi ;)" At 6:35:33 P.M., HUGHES responded, "Is this e_____". At 6:37:13 P.M., the "child" responded "yeppers LOL, who dis???????" Between 6:37:43 P.M. and 6:48:43 P.M., HUGHES typed, "My name is Jeremy," "E_____ is a very pretty name," and "Would you like to talk".

g. During the course of this initial online text messaging between HUGHES and the "child" on April 1, 2016, Sergeant Gazdick requested Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Senior Crime Intelligence Analyst II (SCIAII) Francisco Zapata to conduct open source records queries to identify the subscriber for telephone number 904-XXX-XXXX. After doing so, SCIAII Zapata advised Sergeant Gazdick that telephone number 904-XXX-XXXX resolved to JEREMY LEE HUGHES at a particular address in Georgia. SCIAII Zapata then queried an online law enforcement tool for out of state driver's license information and criminal history reporting for JEREMY LEE HUGHES. SCIAII Zapata further identified JEREMY LEE HUGHES at a particular post office box in Fitzgerald, Georgia, with a date of birth in November 1974, and having a particular verifiable Social Security Number. SCIAII Zapata also advised that HUGHES had outstanding arrest warrants for aggravated child molestation and incest issued by a state magistrate in the state of Georgia.

h. Later on April 1, 2016, at 7:41:02 P.M., HUGHES typed, "I've been married twice " to which the "child" responded "That sux". At 7:42:14 P.M., HUGHES responded "Its ok the right person will come along" "I want a girl who can have kids. I want a baby pretty bad." At 7:48:42 P.M., the "child" responded, "I'm not trying to be a teen mommy lol". At 8:03:06 P.M. HUGHES asked the "child" "What grade are you in", and the "child" responded, "8th". HUGHES responded, "Awesome high school is next". At 8:04:02 P.M., HUGHES typed, "Did ur uncle tell u how old iam?" HUGHES stated that he was 41 years old, to which the "child" responded, "That's the oposite of me LOL 14 ;)". At 8:34:12 P.M., HUGHES typed, "ive always liked shorter younger girls :)".

i. On April 1, 2016 at 9:09:14 P.M. and 9:10:04 P.M., and on April 3, 2016 at 8:27:57 P.M., HUGHES sent six pictures of himself to the "child," all of which depicted his face. The adult male individual depicted in these photographs was the same individual depicted in the photograph from HUGHES' Georgia driver's license (viewed by both Sergeant Gazdick and me)

j. On April 1, 2016 at 9:33:40 P.M., HUGHES typed, "Ur uncle said u wanted to learn sum things he couldn't teach you". HUGHES then began questioning the "child" about "her" knowledge of kissing and advised that he "love[s] to kiss" and that he likes "sex of course".

k. Also on April 1, 2016, HUGHES and the "child" continued the text message conversation, during which HUGHES asked the "child" how old "her" uncle was, and the "child" responded "39". HUGHES continued on and texted, "im sorry im just curious why he doesn't want you talking to someone younger." The "child" responded, "If u don't wanna talk to me that's fine". At 10:44:26 P.M., HUGHES typed, "Nooo i do U seem very nice". At 11:01:37 P.M., HUGHES typed, "I love cuddling up in bed with a girl". At 11:05:25 P.M., HUGHES typed, "id have to show u ;)" "Yea if u wanted me to sumtime". At 11:12:08 P.M., HUGHES typed, "After we get to know each other do u think we can ever meet". On April 2, 2016 at 12:12:13 A.M., HUGHES typed, "So how do we meet in person". At 12:15:00 A.M., HUGHES typed, "I mean do i pick u up and we go hang out and do something or do i come over and hang with u". At 12:24 A.M., HUGHES typed, "So when do u want me.... to cum over".

l. Also on April 2, 2016, HUGHES advised the "child" that he worked as a driver for a popular private transportation company. At 12:58:30 A.M. and 12:58:59 A.M., HUGHES provided two email addresses "jeremyhughes247@gmail.com" and "jeremyhughes24@yahoo.com" for the "child" to send a picture of "herself." Sergeant Gazdick, in the persona of the "child," sent an image to HUGHES' email address "jeremyhughes247@gmail.com" that depicted what appeared to be a minor female child (actually an age-regressed photo of an adult female law enforcement officer) standing, fully clothed, near a swimming pool. HUGHES responded both via email and text message, respectively, "Very pretty," and "Omg!!!! Are you kidding me?you are beautiful!!!!".

m. Also on April 2, 2016, HUGHES began to text about sex and sexual acts and explained them to the "child." At 1:22:30 A.M., HUGHES typed, "Are u saying u wanna be sexual". The "child" responded, "Is that bad?", and HUGHES typed, "No not at all". At 1:31:42 A.M., HUGHES typed, "Im very open minded about sex i love to try new things". At 1:33:58 A.M., HUGHES typed, "Ever heard of the 69" "Lol its when the girl lays on top of the guy and he licks her while she sux him". At 1:38:00 A.M., HUGHES typed, "Do u touch urself down there ever". The "child" responded, "Sorry, I just don't know much about this stuff". At 1:41:55 A.M., HUGHES typed, "Ok... so girls have a clitoris do u know what that is". At 1:44:57 A.M., HUGHES typed, "Ok..... u and the guy get naked u get on top of him with ur ass in his face and ur face down at his manhood. U put his dick in ur mouth and suck it like a lollipop and he licks ur clitoris and all over" "And u make each other have a orgasim". HUGHES then continued to explain to the "child"

what the “doggystyle” sexual position is and the “child” responded, “Well I hope you find someone who's goOD at those things.” At 2:01:02 A.M., HUGHES responded, “Me 2 or someone who can be taught.” The “child” responded, “Like who”, and HUGHES replied, “Hmmmmmm. Idk? Maybe you”. Approximately nine minutes later, HUGHES typed, “Ask ur uncle when and if we can hook up and let me know. We will figure out something”. At 2:12:48 A.M., HUGHES typed, “Ok.... then its official e_____ and jeremy are bf/gf”.

n. Also on April 2, 2016, the text messaging between HUGHES and the “child” continued. They discussed the best time to meet, while coordinating with HUGHES’ work schedule and the wishes of Sergeant Gazdick’s “A. M.” persona. HUGHES explained his current living situation, his medical history, and a law suit in which he was currently involved. HUGHES advised the “child” that he could possibly travel to meet “her” on Wednesday (April 6, 2016) but not before due to money being “a little tight.”

o. Also on April 2, 2016, the text messaging between HUGHES and the “child” continued. HUGHES and the “child” continued to discuss plans for meeting in person. At 9:11:42 P.M., HUGHES typed, “Now that would be cool i could cum down on Wednesday after work and stay maybe even stay 2 nights lol :)”. HUGHES and the “child” had previously discussed the possibility of the “child” being left at home alone while “her” “uncle” went out of town. HUGHES and the “child” discussed sleeping arrangements, possibly watching movies and going swimming. At 10:35:06 P.M., HUGHES typed, “Or do u just want sex?” Beginning at 11:17:49 P.M., the following text messages were exchanged between HUGHES and the “child”:

HUGHES: Ok baby i will lick u from the front to the back how about that?

"Child": to the back?????

HUGHES: Lol
Yes to the back

"Child": of my pussy?

HUGHES: One crack to the other

"Child": i dont get it???

HUGHES: U start at the clit then to the pussy then to that little patch of skin between ur ass and pussy

"Child": OOOOOOOOoooooooo

HUGHES: It will drive u wild

"Child": i thought u meant my butt

HUGHES: Then i kiss ur butt cheeks and then tickle ur butt with my tongue
Yes silly ur butt hole

"Child": ewwwwww gross
u want to lick my butthole?

HUGHES: No its not.... trust me it will drive u wild. Just make sure u r clean ya know
Ok.... forget that we dont have to go there. Thats a little advanced. U might not be ready for that. But trust me if u ever have it done u will love it

"Child": well if u wanna and u promise it will be fun im down

"HUGHES": We can just try it if u dont like it we wont do it anymore

p. On April 3, 2016, HUGHES texted the "child" to ensure that the "child's" "uncle" had knowledge of his plan to travel to meet the "child" in person. At 12:54:32 A.M., HUGHES typed, "I just dont want him to cum home while im there and find

gkx

us asleep in bed together and freak out or something". The "child" responded "nah babe, wont happen". HUGHES then texted, "Ok lol dont want him to catch us making love either". The "child" responded, "he wont b home until the weekend, but i understand". HUGHES then responded, "Cool so we can do it all over the house".

q. Also April 3, 2016, beginning at approximately 1:30 A.M., the following text messages are exchanged between HUGHES and the "child":

"Child": i heard u cant get prego the 1st time, is that tru

HUGHES: Not true
U can get pregnant as long as ur fertile

"Child": OOOOOooooooo, glad i asked

HUGHES: I wont get u pregnant

"Child": how can u b sure

HUGHES: I know when to pull out

"Child": u cant get prego that way

HUGHES: If i cum inside ur pussy u can get pregnant but if i pull out and just cum on u you wont get pregnant. I can cum in ur mouth or butt and u won't get pregnant
Even if i cum in ur pussy there is no guarantee u will get pregnant u have to be fertile

"Child": good 2 kno ;)
wher do u wanna cum?

HUGHES: All over.... :) wherever you will let me
Where do u want me to cum

"Child": IDK
i thought u were ALWAYS supposed 2 use comdoms?

HUGHES: I cant im allergic to latex
If u let me ill shoot it in ur butt

"Child": will it hurt???
r all condoms latex?

HUGHES: Yes they are all latex
Not if we go slow
Or i can just shoot the warm cum all over uf cute butt

"Child": ;) i lik the sound of that

HUGHES: But if u r on top ridin me and i say im gonna cum u have to
hop up quick or i will cum deep in ur pussy
Oh u do well i will definitely take care of that

"Child": ok, i guess thats a plan then LOL

HUGHES: ????? To cum on ur butt or inside ur pussy????

"Child": which wuld u prefer??????

HUGHES: Well u said u didnt wanna get pregnant
If u want me to cum inside u i will

"Child": not really, i think bein a mom @ 14 wuld suck, but if u think
itll b ok.....

HUGHES: Im just saying ill cum deep in you ifbu want but know u very
well could get pregnant

"Child": what if i get prego??????

HUGHES: 9 months later we would have a son or a daughter lol
Then we move in together i take care of u and the baby and
when u turn 16 i think we get married

"Child": awwwwwww, but why do we hav 2 w8 until 16?

HUGHES: I think its the law

r. Between April 2, 2016 at 11:48 P.M. and April 6, 2016 at 1:00:53

P.M., HUGHES continued to have contact with Sergeant Gazdick in his persona as the
"child" and/or the "uncle" through text messaging, emails and telephone calls. At the

request of several emails from HUGHES stating, "Hey ! Is there anyway u can call me?", "I just wanna talk about em. Can you call me @ 904-XXX-XXX", "Hey can you call me alex?", on April 3, 2016 at 11:04:44 P.M., Sergeant Gazdick placed a telephone call to HUGHES. HUGHES did not answer and Sergeant Gazdick left a voicemail stating that he (Sergeant Gazdick in the persona of the "uncle") was trying to get in touch with him "like he (HUGHES) asked" and to send him a text message "whenever he got a minute". On April 3, 2016 at 11:05:12 P.M., HUGHES attempted to call Sergeant Gazdick (in the persona of the "uncle") back and left a voicemail stating that he (HUGHES) had missed the call because he was "washing dishes" and to please return his phone call. HUGHES additionally sent a text message, "Call me back please was washing dishes". At 11:07:29 P.M., HUGHES placed another phone call to the "uncle" but did not leave a message. Sergeant Gazdick in the persona of the "child's" "uncle" called HUGHES back on April 3, 2016 at 11:18:16 P.M. During this recorded phone call, HUGHES confirmed that the "child" had told the "uncle" of their plans to meet, and the "uncle" stated in substance that he had given the "child" some guidance on meeting somewhere other than their house for the first meeting. HUGHES stated that he worked in Jacksonville "Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday" and it was "better if I do it while I'm in Jacksonville" because he lives in Brunswick Georgia. During the continued conversation, HUGHES stated that he really wanted to talk to someone and make sure it was all cool. HUGHES "I didn't wanna, you know, like show up, to like you know, one of these TV shows where they're going to arrest me or something, you know." HUGHES went on to explain to the "uncle" how the TV shows set people up to meet young girls and ends up being "a big

setup.” HUGHES told the “uncle” that he lives in Brunswick and works in Jacksonville for a private transportation company. HUGHES and the “uncle” discussed HUGHES’ plans for their first meeting Wednesday and HUGHES being “safe.” The “uncle” explained that he did not want anything else to take care of and did not want the “child” catching anything. HUGHES told the “uncle” that he (HUGHES) did not have any children and stated “I’m not looking to have any.”

s. Text messaging continued between HUGHES and the “child” and they discussed, among other things, the “child’s” school schedule and plans for HUGHES visit “her” in St. Johns County. On April 6, 2016 at 3:01:08 P.M., the “child” provided a meeting location, away from “her” residence, to HUGHES.

6. On April 6, 2016 at approximately 3:15 P.M., I was present when HUGHES arrived at a predetermined location (agreed upon by HUGHES and the “child”) in his vehicle in St. Johns County and was taken into custody by SJCSO officers.

7. Based on my training and experience, I know that the sexual acts that HUGHES discussed engaging in with the 14 year old “child” would have constituted criminal acts in violation of Florida law, specifically the crime(s) of lewd or lascivious battery upon a person less than 16 years of age, in violation of Sections 800.04(4)(a) and 800.04(4)(b), Florida Statutes.

8. Later on April 6, 2016, Sergeant Gazdick conducted a post-arrest interview of HUGHES. This interview was video and audio recorded. I have reviewed this recording and learned and observed, among other things, the following:

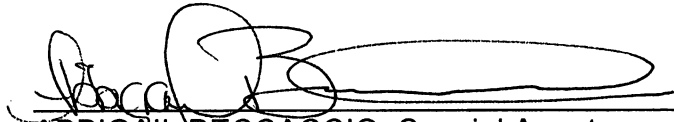
a. Sergeant Gazdick advised HUGHES of his constitutional rights and HUGHES acknowledged his rights and agreed to speak with Sergeant Gazdick. During this interview, HUGHES stated, among other things, "Evidently it was some kind of undercover sting or something." Subsequently, HUGHES stated that he was talking to a "girl and a guy" and was told that the "girl" was 14 years old.

b. HUGHES acknowledged that he used his cellular telephone to communicate with the "child" and the "uncle." HUGHES was provided a copy of the communications (emails and text messages) to determine if they were a fair and accurate representation of what he remembered. HUGHES reviewed them with Sergeant Gazdick and HUGHES confirmed that the documents contained fair and accurate representations of his communications.

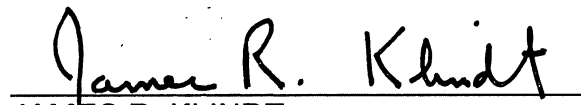
c. HUGHES acknowledged texting with the "child" about engaging in graphic sexual acts with the "child," including vaginal and anal intercourse. HUGHES stated "I am totally disgusted with myself." When asked if he traveled to St. Augustine with the intent to have sex with a girl that he had been told was 14 years old, HUGHES stated, "I've never done anything like this before in my life, I don't know what made me do it," and "I have no legitimate excuse there isn't one." Sergeant Gazdick asked HUGHES, "Aren't you glad we found you before you found an actual 14 year old." HUGHES responded, "yes sir, thank you, thank you," covered his face with his hand, and began sobbing.

9. Based upon the foregoing facts, I have probable cause to believe that from on or about March 31, 2016 through on or about April 6, 2016, in St. Johns County, in the

Middle District of Florida, and elsewhere, defendant, JEREMY LEE HUGHES, using a facility of interstate commerce, that is, by cellular telephone and computer via the internet, did knowingly and willfully attempt to persuade, induce, entice, and coerce a person whom defendant believed had not reached the age of 18 years, to engage in sexual activity for which a person can be charged with a criminal offense under the laws of the state of Florida, that is, the crime of lewd or lascivious battery upon a person less than 16 years of age, in violation of Sections 800.04(4)(a) and 800.04(4)(b), Florida Statutes.


ABBIGAIL BECCACCIO, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
2nd day of May, 2016, at Jacksonville, Florida.


JAMES R. KLINDT
United States Magistrate Judge