

2/19/26

3:40 PM

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA, FLORIDA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOEL THOMAS LUST

CASE NO. 8:26-cr-57-CEH-AAS
18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)
(Possession of Child Pornography)

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT ONE
(Possession of Child Pornography)

SEALED

Between on or about March 19, 2023 and May 15, 2024, in the Middle
District of Florida, and elsewhere, the defendant,

JOEL THOMAS LUST,

did knowingly possess and access with intent to view a matter which contained a
visual depiction that had been shipped and transported using any means and facility
of interstate and foreign commerce and that had been produced using materials that
had been shipped and transported using any means and facility of interstate and
foreign commerce, by any means, when the production of the visual depiction
involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct and the visual
depiction was of such conduct and the depiction involved a prepubescent minor and
a minor who had not attained 12 years of age.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B) and (b)(2).

FORFEITURE

1. The allegations contained in Count One are incorporated by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeitures, pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 2253.

2. Upon conviction of a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(b), the defendant shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2253:

a. Any visual depiction described in 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251, 2251A, or 2252, 2252A, 2252B, or 2260 of chapter 110 of Title 18, or any book, magazine, periodical, film, videotape, or other matter which contains any such visual depiction, which was produced, transported, mailed, shipped, or received in violation of chapter 110;

b. Any property, real or personal, constituting or traceable to gross profits or other proceeds obtained from such offense; and

c. Any property, real or personal, used or intended to be used to commit or to promote the commission of such offense or any property traceable to such property.

3. The property to be forfeited includes, but is not limited to, the following: a Samsung cell phone, model SM-S918U.

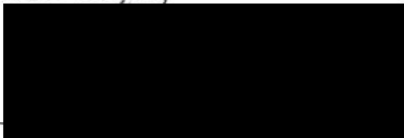
4. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;

- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

the United States shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 2253(b).

A TRUE BILL,


Foreperson

GREGORY W. KEHOE
United States Attorney

By:


Courtney Derry
Assistant United States Attorney

By:


Michael C. Sinacore
Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Special Prosecutions Section

No.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
Middle District of Florida
Tampa Division

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

JOEL THOMAS LUST

INDICTMENT

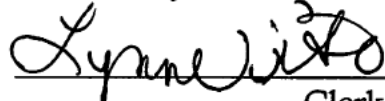
Violations: 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B)

A true bill, 


Foreperson

Filed in open court this 19th day

of February 2026.


Clerk

Bail \$ _____
