

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

**FILED**  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

APR 05 2023

MITCHELL R. ELFERS  
CLERK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JONATHAN JOHN JAMES,

Defendant.

Cr. No. 22-886 DHU

**PLEA AGREEMENT**

Pursuant to Rule 11, Fed. R. Crim. P., the parties notify the Court of the following agreement between the United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico, the Defendant, JONATHAN JOHN JAMES, and the Defendant's counsel, Stephen Taylor:

**REPRESENTATION BY COUNSEL**

1. The Defendant understands the Defendant's right to be represented by an attorney and is so represented. The Defendant has thoroughly reviewed all aspects of this case with the Defendant's attorney and is fully satisfied with that attorney's legal representation.

**RIGHTS OF THE DEFENDANT**

2. The Defendant further understands the Defendant's rights:
- a. to plead not guilty, or having already so pleaded, to persist in that plea;
  - b. to have a trial by jury; and
  - c. at a trial:
    - i. to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses,

- ii. to be protected from compelled self-incrimination,
- iii. to testify and present evidence on the Defendant's own behalf, and
- iv. to compel the attendance of witnesses for the defense.

**WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND PLEA OF GUILTY**

3. The Defendant agrees to waive these rights and to plead guilty to Count 2 of the indictment, charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2423(b) and (e), that being Travel with Intent to Engage in Illicit Sexual Conduct.

**SENTENCING**

4. The Defendant understands that the minimum and maximum penalty provided by law for this offense is:

- a. imprisonment for a period of not more than 30 years;
- b. a fine not to exceed the greater of \$250,000 or twice the pecuniary gain to the Defendant or pecuniary loss to the victim;
- c. a term of supervised release of not less than five years and up to a lifetime of on supervision to follow any term of imprisonment. (If the Defendant serves a term of imprisonment, is then released on supervised release, and violates the conditions of supervised release, the Defendant's supervised release could be revoked — even on the last day of the term — and the Defendant could then be returned to another period of incarceration and a new term of supervised release.);
- d. a mandatory special penalty assessment of \$100.00;
- e. a potential special penalty assessment of \$5,000<sup>00</sup>; and *KBM*

f. restitution as may be ordered by the Court.

5. The parties recognize that the federal sentencing guidelines are advisory, and that the Court is required to consider them in determining the sentence it imposes. Defendant further recognizes that while the Defendant's attorney may have made a prediction or estimate of the sentence that the Court may impose, the Defendant understands that the Court is not bound by any such estimate or prediction.

#### **ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE**

6. If this matter proceeded to trial, the Defendant understands that the United States would be required to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, the following elements for violations of the charges listed below:

Count 2: 18 U.S.C. §§ 2423(b) and (e), that being, Travel with Intent to Engage in Illicit

#### **Sexual Conduct**

*First:* Defendant traveled in interstate commerce;

*Second:* Defendant traveled for the purpose of engaging in any illicit sexual conduct with another person

#### **DEFENDANT'S ADMISSION OF FACTS**

7. By my signature on this plea agreement, I am acknowledging that I am pleading guilty because I am, in fact, guilty of the offense(s) to which I am pleading guilty. I recognize and accept responsibility for my criminal conduct. Moreover, in pleading guilty, I acknowledge that if I chose to go to trial instead of entering this plea, the United States could prove facts sufficient to establish my guilt of the offense(s) to which I am pleading guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, including any facts alleged in the indictment that increase the statutory

minimum or maximum penalties. I specifically admit the following facts related to the charges against me, and declare under penalty of perjury that all of these facts are true and correct:

**On April 27, 2022, I made in person contact with a female under the age of 18 years old, and shared my contact information. This occurred in Gallup NM, and I live in Arizona. A person I believed to be this minor contacted me. Our conversations became sexual in nature. On May 1, 2022, we planned to meet in person on May 5, 2022, where it was discussed that she would perform sex acts with me. I travelled from Arizona and arrived at the meeting point, a park in Gallup, NM on May 5, 2022. I brought condoms, a Dr. Pepper, and a bracelet for her. Shortly after I arrived, law enforcement made contact with me.**

8. By signing this agreement, the Defendant admits that there is a factual basis for each element of the crime(s) to which the Defendant is pleading guilty. The Defendant agrees that the Court may rely on any of these facts, as well as facts in the presentence report, to determine the Defendant's sentence, including, but not limited to, the advisory guideline offense level.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9. Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B), the United States and the Defendant recommend as follows:

- a. As of the date of this agreement, the Defendant has clearly demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the Defendant's criminal conduct. Consequently, pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1(a), so long as the Defendant continues to accept responsibility for the

Defendant's criminal conduct, the Defendant is entitled to a reduction of two levels from the base offense level as calculated under the sentencing guidelines, and if applicable, a reduction of an additional offense level pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1(b). Further, the United States is free to withdraw this recommendation if the Defendant engages in any conduct that is inconsistent with acceptance of responsibility between the date of this agreement and the sentencing hearing. Such conduct would include committing additional crimes, failing to appear in Court as required, and/or failing to obey any conditions of release that the Court may set.

- b. The Defendant understands that the above recommendations are not binding on the Court and that whether the Court accepts these recommendations is a matter solely within the discretion of the Court after it has reviewed the presentence report. Further, the Defendant understands that the Court may choose to vary from the advisory guideline sentence. If the Court does not accept any one or more of the above recommendations and reaches an advisory guideline sentence different than expected by the Defendant, or if the Court varies from the advisory guideline range, the Defendant will not seek to withdraw the Defendant's plea of guilty. In other words, regardless of any of the parties' recommendations, the Defendant's final sentence is solely within the discretion of the Court.

10. Apart from the recommendations set forth in this plea agreement, the United States and the Defendant reserve their rights to assert any position or argument with respect to

the sentence to be imposed, including but not limited to the applicability of particular sentencing guidelines, adjustments under the guidelines, departures or variances from the guidelines, and the application of factors in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

11. Regardless of any other provision in this agreement, the United States reserves the right to provide to the United States Pretrial Services and Probation Office and to the Court any information the United States believes may be helpful to the Court, including but not limited to information about the recommendations contained in this agreement and any relevant conduct under USSG § 1B1.3.

#### **DEFENDANT'S ADDITIONAL AGREEMENT**

12. The Defendant understands the Defendant's obligation to provide the United States Pretrial Services and Probation Office with truthful, accurate, and complete information. The Defendant represents that the Defendant has complied with and will continue to comply with this obligation.

13. The Defendant agrees that any financial records and information provided by the Defendant to the Probation Office, before or after sentencing, may be disclosed to the United States Attorney's Office for use in the collection of any unpaid financial obligation.

14. The Defendant agrees that, upon the Defendant's signing of this plea agreement, the facts that the Defendant has admitted under this plea agreement as set forth above, as well as any facts to which the Defendant admits in open court at the Defendant's plea hearing, shall be admissible against the Defendant under Federal Rule of Evidence 801(d)(2)(A) in any subsequent proceeding, including a criminal trial, and the Defendant expressly waives the

Defendant's rights under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(f) and Federal Rule of Evidence 410 with regard to the facts the Defendant admits in conjunction with this plea agreement.

15. By signing this plea agreement, the defendant waives the right to withdraw the defendant's plea of guilty pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(d) unless (1) the court rejects the plea agreement pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(5) or (2) the defendant can show a fair and just reason as those terms are used in Rule 11(d)(2)(B) for requesting the withdrawal. Furthermore, defendant understands that if the court rejects the plea agreement, whether or not defendant withdraws the guilty plea, the United States is relieved of any obligation it had under the agreement and defendant shall be subject to prosecution for any federal, state, or local crime(s) which this agreement otherwise anticipated would be dismissed or not prosecuted.

#### **RESTITUTION**

16. The parties agree that, as part of the Defendant's sentence, the Court will enter an order of restitution pursuant to the Mandatory Victim's Restitution Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2429, and 18 U.S.C. § 3663A, if applicable; if § 3663A is not applicable, the Court will enter an order of restitution pursuant to 18 U.S.C §§ 3663 and 3664. The Defendant agrees and acknowledges that, as part of the Defendant's sentence, the Court is not limited to ordering restitution only for the amount involved in the particular offense or offenses to which the Defendant is entering a plea of guilty, but may and should order restitution resulting from all of the Defendant's criminal conduct related to this case.

17. No later than July 1 of each year after sentencing, until restitution is paid in full, the Defendant shall provide the Asset Recovery Unit, United States Attorney's Office, P.O. Box

607, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, (1) a completed and signed financial statement provided to the Defendant by the United States Attorney's Office and/or the United States Probation Office and (2) a copy of the Defendant's most recent tax returns.

**FORFEITURE**

18. The Defendant agrees to forfeit, and hereby forfeits, whatever interest the Defendant may have in any asset derived from or used in the commission of the offense(s) in this case. The Defendant agrees to cooperate fully in helping the United States (a) to locate and identify any such assets and (b) to the extent possible, to obtain possession and/or ownership of all or part of any such assets. The Defendant further agrees to cooperate fully in helping the United States locate, identify, and obtain possession and/or ownership of any other assets about which the Defendant may have knowledge that were derived from or used in the commission of offenses committed by other persons.

19. The Defendant voluntarily and immediately agrees to forfeit to the United States all of the Defendant's right, title, and interest in the following assets and properties:

a. **Samsung cell phone with IMEI 353045590009757**

20. The Defendant agrees to fully assist the United States in the forfeiture of the above-described property and to take whatever steps are necessary to pass clear title to the United States, including but not limited to execution of any documents necessary to transfer the Defendant's interest in the above-described property to the United States.

21. The Defendant agrees to waive the right to notice of any forfeiture proceeding involving the above-described property.



22. The Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives the right to a jury trial on the forfeiture of the above-described property. The Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives all constitutional, legal, and equitable defenses to the forfeiture of said property in any proceeding. The Defendant agrees to waive any jeopardy defense or claim of double jeopardy, whether constitutional or statutory, and agrees to waive any claim or defense under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution, including any claim of excessive fine, to the forfeiture of said property by the United States or any State or its subdivisions.

**SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION**

23. The Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, the Defendant will be required to register as a sex offender upon the Defendant's release from prison as a condition of supervised release pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d). The Defendant also understands that independent of supervised release, the Defendant will be subject to federal and state sex offender registration requirements, and that those requirements may apply throughout the Defendant's life. The Defendant understands that the Defendant shall keep the Defendant's registration current, shall notify the state sex offender registration agency or agencies of any changes to the Defendant's name, place of residence, employment, or student status, or other relevant information within three business days after such change. The Defendant shall comply with requirements to periodically verify in person the Defendant's sex offender registration information. The Defendant understands that the Defendant will be subject to possible federal and state penalties for failure to comply with any such sex offender registration requirements. If the Defendant resides in New Mexico following release from prison, the Defendant will be subject to the registration requirements of N.M. Stat. Ann. §§ 29-11A-1 to 10. The Defendant

further understands that, under 18 U.S.C. § 4042(c), notice will be provided to certain law enforcement agencies upon the Defendant's release from confinement following conviction.

24. As a condition of supervised release, the Defendant shall initially register with the state sex offender registration in New Mexico, and shall also register with the state sex offender registration agency in any state where the Defendant resides, is employed, works, or is a student, as directed by the Probation Officer. The Defendant shall comply with all requirements of federal and state sex offender registration laws, including the requirements to update the Defendant's registration information. The Defendant shall provide proof of registration to the Probation Officer within 72 hours of release from imprisonment.

**WAIVER OF APPEAL AND POST-CONVICTION RIGHTS**

25. The Defendant is aware that 28 U.S.C. § 1291 and 18 U.S.C. § 3742 afford the right to appeal a conviction and the sentence imposed. Acknowledging that, the Defendant knowingly waives the right to appeal the Defendant's conviction(s) and sentence, as well as any order of restitution entered by the Court. This waiver extends to any challenge to the manner in which the sentence was determined or imposed, including the district court's authority to make findings supporting the sentence.

26. The Defendant also waives the right to appeal any sentence imposed below or within the Guideline range upon a revocation of supervised release in this cause number but may nonetheless appeal the determination of the revocation Guideline range.

27. The Defendant also waives the right to appeal the denial of any motion filed under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A) where such denial rests upon the court's determination that a sentence reduction is not warranted under the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

28. In addition, the Defendant agrees to waive any collateral attack to the Defendant's conviction(s) and any sentence, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241, 2255, or any other extraordinary writ, except on the issue of defense counsel's ineffective assistance.

**GOVERNMENT'S ADDITIONAL AGREEMENT**

29. Provided that the Defendant fulfills the Defendant's obligations as set out above, the United States agrees that:

- a. Following sentencing, the United States will move to dismiss **Count 1 of the indictment.**
- b. The United States will not bring additional criminal charges against the Defendant arising out of the facts forming the basis of the present indictment.

30. This agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico and does not bind any other federal, state, or local agencies or prosecuting authorities.

**VOLUNTARY PLEA**

31. The Defendant agrees and represents that this plea of guilty is freely and voluntarily made and is not the result of force, threats, or promises (other than the promises set forth in this agreement and any addenda). There have been no promises from anyone as to what sentence the Court will impose. The Defendant also represents that the Defendant is pleading guilty because the Defendant is in fact guilty.

**VIOLATION OF PLEA AGREEMENT**

32. The Defendant agrees that if the Defendant violates any provision of this agreement, the United States may declare this agreement null and void, and the Defendant will

thereafter be subject to prosecution for any criminal violation, including but not limited to any crime(s) or offense(s) contained in or related to the charges in this case, as well as perjury, false statement, obstruction of justice, and any other crime committed by the Defendant during this prosecution.

**SPECIAL ASSESSMENT**

33. At the time of sentencing, the Defendant will tender to the United States District Court, District of New Mexico, 333 Lomas Blvd. NW, Suite 270, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102, a money order or certified check payable to the order of the **United States District Court** in the amount of \$100 in payment of the special penalty assessment described above.

**ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT(S)**

34. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3014, to the extent this statute is in effect on the date of sentencing, if the court finds the Defendant is not indigent, then the Defendant will also tender to the United States District Court, a money order or certified check payable to the order of the United States District Court in the amount of \$5,000 per relevant count of conviction.


**ENTIRETY OF AGREEMENT**

35. This document and any addenda are a complete statement of the agreement in this case and may not be altered unless done so in writing and signed by all parties. This agreement is effective upon signature by the Defendant and an Assistant United States Attorney.

AGREED TO AND SIGNED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

ALEXANDER M.M. UBALLEZ

United States Attorney



Nicholas J. Marshall

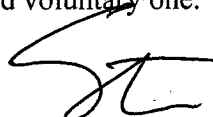
Assistant United States Attorney

Post Office Box 607

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

(505) 346-7274

I have carefully discussed every part of this agreement with my client. Further, I have fully advised my client of my client's rights, of possible defenses, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of the relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. In addition, I have explained to my client the elements to each offense to which she/he is pleading guilty. To my knowledge, my client's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one.



Stephen Taylor

Attorney for the Defendant

I have carefully discussed every part of this agreement with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. My attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible defenses, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of the relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement.



Jonathan John James

Defendant