

DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT

David Byrd, Chief of Police



PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Media Contact – David Byrd

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To Provide Info Call 815-748-8400

To Report a Crime/Request Emergency Police Response Call 9-1-1

Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child

On November 6, 2023, the DeKalb Police Department was contacted by the mother of a juvenile victim that had been sexually assaulted. The mother stated that her daughter (11 years of age) had been sexually assaulted by Thomas Lenker who is the victim's father. The assault occurred on April 7, 2023, during visitation with Lenker.

On November 9, 2023, the DeKalb Police Department conducted a victim sensitive interview with the juvenile victim and confirmed that Lenker forced his daughter to perform sexual acts on the aforementioned date. It was also learned that Lenker had performed similar sexual acts with his daughter several other times, with the earliest incident occurring when she was 6 years of age.

On November 16, 2023, the DeKalb Police Department arrested and charged Thomas Lenker with the following criminal offenses:

- Charges:**
1. Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child-Felony
 2. Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse-Felony
 3. Sexual Exploitation of a Child- Felony

Offender 1: Thomas Lenker M/W/39 YOA

Victim: Juvenile F/W/Now 11 YOA

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****All persons are presumed innocent in a court of law until proven guilty****

If you witnessed this incident or have any information that can help with this investigation, please contact the DeKalb Police Department.