

And furthermore, invoking the provisions of Wisconsin Statute Section 939.617, upon conviction the Court shall impose a bifurcated sentence including a term of initial confinement for at least three years.

Count 5: EXPOSING A CHILD TO HARMFUL MATERIAL

The above-named defendant on, about, or between October 1, 2024 and November 12, 2024, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, with knowledge of the character and content of the material, did distribute harmful material to a child, Victim 1, DOB June 2008, with or without monetary consideration, contrary to sec. 948.11(2)(a), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats., a Class I Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

Complainant bases this complaint upon the reports and investigation of SRO Rasmussen and Chief Wallner both from the Ripon Police Department. Complainant, SRO Rasmussen, and Chief Wallner are reliable as sworn law enforcement officials.

Complainant reports that SRO Rasmussen reports on 11/12/24, he spoke to Victim 1, who was born in June 2008. Victim 1 is a student at Ripon High school. Victim 1 stated that he started talking to Mihai Schnell-Harrison, the above named defendant, who's birthdate is 08/29/1993, on a group chat that a friend of his invited him to in September 2024. Victim 1 stated that eventually Mihai added Victim 1 on snapchat and the two began communicating exclusively on snapchat. Victim 1 stated that initially the communication was rather casual but around October 21-October 31, 2024 the communication escalated and started to get rather graphic and sexual in nature. Victim 1 stated that it escalated into the two of them sending pictures of their penises and buttocks to one another. Victim 1 did not know if any of the photos of Victim 1 were saved by Mihai.

Victim 1 said that on multiple occasions Mihai had tried to coordinate them meeting up during this timeframe and would offer for him to get a hotel room for them to go to for sexual intercourse and on one occasion offered to have him come over to his house for sex. Victim 1 said that he did not feel comfortable with this type of meet up and did not feel it was safe to go to a hotel or his home. Victim 1 initially thought it was on 10/31/24 that they did finally meet up. However, through investigation, it was determined that they actually met up on November 6, 2024.

Victim 1 said he told Mihai that he had a school activity at Ripon High School, located in Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin that would go until around 6pm. Mihai claimed that he was also going to be at the school as well for basketball related functions. Victim 1 said that Mihai suggested that they meet up in the school parking lot and told him when and where to specifically meet him. Victim 1 told SRO Rasmussen that Mihai knew he was still in high school and that Mihai did not ever actually ask him his age or grade in school. Victim 1 said that Mihai did ask him if he went to or was still a student and Victim 1 told him he was still a student, so Mihai for sure knew he was still in school though.

Victim 1 explained that on the night they met up, Mihai had instructed him to meet him in the parking lot outside of the weight room. Victim 1 said that Mihai was parked in the parking lot and told SRO Rasmussen that he had parked his vehicle next to Mihai's car. Victim 1 said that he got out from his vehicle and Mihai had opened the rear driver's door of his own vehicle to let Victim 1 in and then Mihai got into the backseat of the car as well.

SRO Rasmussen asked Victim 1 what happened after he got into the vehicle and he said that they began kissing and making out. Victim 1 said that while they were kissing, Victim 1 was kissing on his neck and collarbone area for a few minutes before Mihai had pulled his own pants/shorts and underwear down and had guided Victim 1's head and hands down from his chest area towards his exposed genitals. Victim 1 said that Mihai had grabbed his "ass" once but did not touch his penis. Victim 1 thought that Mihai was wearing white or gray shorts, but could not recall exactly. Victim 1 said that after Mihai had guided him down towards his exposed genitals, Victim 1 had "blown" him. SRO Rasmussen asked what he meant by this and he stated that he put Mihai's penis into his mouth and performed oral sex on him. Victim 1 said that Mihai did not ejaculate and after a few minutes they stopped. Victim 1 said that he got uncomfortable and decided to stop and get out of the car to go home.

SRO Rasmussen asked Victim 1 what Mihai's response to him getting out and leaving was, to which he said he seemed fine and just said okay. Following their meeting, Victim 1 said that the communication went back to being only a few snapchat messages per day before Victim 1 decided to block him on Snapchat.

SRO Rasmussen then spoke to Mihai in an interview room at the police department. When SRO Rasmussen told Mihai that he was made aware of a student making an accusation about Mihai having a sexual encounter with Mihai, Mihai stated what the student's first name was, which was consistent with Victim 1's first name, and said he did not know his last name. Mihai stated that he met Victim 1 on Grindr. Mihai stated that Victim 1 told him that he was 18 and a senior at Ripon High School. Mihai stated that they met up one time and that Victim one gave him oral and that's all that was out of it.

SRO Rasmussen confirmed with Mihai multiple times that Mihai was saying he met Victim 1 on Grindr. Mihai said that after matching on Grindr, he asked Victim 1 if he wanted to talk on Snapchat and said they would communicate on Snapchat "because it disappears".

Mihai said they had good conversations on Snapchat and decided they wanted to meet up and talked about it, but he felt nothing ever seemed like it was too much. Mihai stated, "he knew the position I was in" and SRO Rasmussen inquired what he meant by this and asked if he knew that he was the basketball coach, to which Mihai confirmed that he knew he was the basketball coach and felt that Victim 1 "respected that".

SRO Rasmussen asked Mihai about their communication over Snapchat and whether this turned into sexting versus just small talk. Mihai admitted that they had each sent and received nude images and elaborated that this was pictures of each other's "ass" and "dick". Mihai said he "knew he was 18 so I would ask for that". SRO Rasmussen asked if he had saved anything from Victim 1 or if he knew whether Victim 1 had saved anything for pictures or videos exchanged. Mihai stated that he did not and did not believe Victim 1 had.

SRO Rasmussen asked Mihai if he thought Victim 1 seemed forced to anything and he told SRO Rasmussen no. Mihai said that Victim 1 was the one who asked him to meet up and said, "I've always hesitated to do that because of the spot that we're in and wanted to wait until the summer when he's out". SRO Rasmussen asked Mihai where Victim 1 would ask him to meet up and he indicated the quarry or a hiking trail. Mihai stated that they had only met up the one time, which was at the school parking lot and claimed that this was for only 5-10 minutes.

SRO Rasmussen spoke more to Mihai about Grindr. Mihai stated that he deleted the Grindr app and that means that Grindr deletes everything. SRO Rasmussen asked if it is linked to an email or if he could recover his profile. Mihai said that he used his email, but that he would have to create an entire new account. He also told SRO Rasmussen that when he created his profile he would put his age at 24-25 but told Victim 1 that he was 30-31 and was "transparent with him and was hoping he's the same" to which he immediately followed up by asking, "is he not 18 or is there something else".

After Mihai asked this, SRO Rasmussen informed him that Victim 1 is 16 years old. SRO Rasmussen explained that if he was using an app like Grindr, SRO Rasmussen wanted to be able to verify that he was saying things or possibly altering his age on the account. Mihai told SRO Rasmussen they have a mutual friend that he knows through Grindr and that this was how they connected. Mihai again told SRO Rasmussen that he deleted Grindr from his phone and SRO Rasmussen explained that SRO Rasmussen could potentially subpoena Grindr for the records from his email to show who he matched with and verify his claim of Victim 1 posing as an 18 year old. SRO Rasmussen asked if they would have matched in September and rather than answering this, Mihai said, "we have a common friend that's 18 out of Berlin". Mihai said this friend told him that Victim 1 is 18 and SRO Rasmussen asked if Victim 1 told him he was 18 on Grindr, as this was the original claim Mihai made. Mihai now changed his story to being that he matched with the friend on Grindr and that the friend was the one who introduced him to Victim 1 and that Victim 1 told him he was 18. SRO Rasmussen now confronted him in the lie and confirmed that he had never actually talked to Victim 1 on Grindr like he previously stated.

Complainant further reports that Chief Wallner reports on 11/13/24 he spoke to Ripon Area School District Special Executive Assistant Jolene Meyer. Meyer was able to supply me with various employment records that indicated that Schnell-Harrison was originally hired in August of 2023, as Boys Basketball Head Coach. When Schell-Harrison was initially hired on 8/24/23 one of the documents that Schnell-Harrison signed was a form called Ripon Area School District Employment Reminders. Included on that document is included several applicable issues including; No harassment of students or adults, physical, verbal, sexual; Don't accept friend requests from students

or post student pictures on personal social media accounts; No sexual relations with students; Don't meet alone with students at your house or other private locations.

Since that time Schnell-Harrison has maintained employment by maintaining a Ripon Area School District email address, maintained keys and key FOB for entrance into the school, had contact with students, Student Athletes, Parents of Students, Google Classroom, and access to District email.

Schnell-Harrison coached Boys Basketball for the 2023-2024 season and then was employed through the summer of 2024 with the school district in various roles, including supervising the weight room, basketball classes, open gym monitoring, and Speed and Agility Coach.

Schnell-Harrison continued in various work and volunteer hours capacity with the school district continuing through the summer of 2024 and fall of 2024. Schnell-Harrison primary responsibilities though were with the Basketball program with the school district. During the summer Schnell-Harrison had contact days and Summer Basketball Camp with players. Schnell-Harrison coached a Basketball Camp on October 19, 2024, coached at the Hoops and Handles event sponsored by Ripon Backboard Club in October and November 2024. Held a meeting with Boys Basketball Players and Parents on October 20, 2024 as coach of the Ripon High School Boys Basketball program.

Schnell-Harrison also was responsible for communications with the boy's basketball team members and parents about activities involving boys' basketball as the coach. Schnell-Harrison utilized a texting app with the school district called "REMIND". Schnell-Harrison and an assistant coach named Andy Bradley sent out messages to parents and players using that app.

Schnell-Harrison also was responsible for hosting open gym for boys basketball in 2024 between July 2024 and November 2024.

Schnell-Harrison further signed another wage compensation worksheet for job classification of coach for the Ripon High School. This document noted his work year was to commence on 11/18/24 and was signed by Schnell-Harrison on 11/4/24 and by the principal/supervisor on 11/1/24.

Complainant further reports that SRO Rasmussen reports on 11/14/24, he spoke to Assistant Principal and Athletic Director of Ripon High School, Vincent Propson. In talking with Propson about Mihai Schnell-Harrison's role with the Ripon Area School District, SRO Rasmussen learned that Mihai was in fact a school staff member and the basketball coach for Ripon High School Boy's Varsity team at the time of November 6, 2024. SRO Rasmussen inquired with Propson about Mihai's role with the district and further asked about what a coach is considered when a season ended and the time between that season to the next season starting. SRO Rasmussen learned that at the end of Mihai's last season (2023-2024) he was given a review by Propson which evaluates the season and gives an opportunity to see if they wish to continue with the same coach. Following the completion of last season, Mihai's coaching evaluation was given a satisfactory grading and Mihai had signed the evaluation. Propson explained that at the end of that review the coach signs off with the understanding that the coach will return for the next season. If not, they give the coach a release notifying him that he would not return or the coach has the opportunity to resign from their position so the school can begin the search for a new coaching candidate.

Propson explained that while the contract of a new season starts on the first day of practice (November 18, 2024) he was still considered as the coach and a staff member of the Ripon School District. The contract itself is considered the payroll period for that team sport for the salaried position, based on the sports schedule start date.

Propson also informed SRO Rasmussen that because of the role Mihai maintained with the school district, he has continued acting in the role as the basketball coach this entire time based on his communication with the players/students, utilizing the school district email for fundraising, parent communication, and other means. Propson advised that Mihai would only be allowed to maintain keys, email for the district, monitor open gyms, and weight room by being a staff member. Propson also explained that the scheduling of open gyms was something that only the head coach of the sport could do aside from Propson himself. Propson told SRO Rasmussen that any time open gym is run, a coach or staff member of the district must be present and Mihai was very frequently the person for that role over the past several months.

Propson was asked as his role as the athletic director for the school, if he was asked on the stand if Mihai was an employee or staff member on November 6th 2024, what his answer would be and Propson said, "yes he was for sure a staff member, 100%".

Based on the foregoing, the complainant believes this complaint to be true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 11/15/24

Electronically Signed By:

Joseph Radish

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1125982

Electronically Signed By:

Captain Troy Damsteegt

Complainant