

BRADLEY D. BILLHIMER
Ocean County Prosecutor

CASEY M. LONG
Chief of Detectives



MICHAEL T. NOLAN, JR.
First Assistant Prosecutor

BRIDGET J. COUGHLIN
Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR
119 Hooper Avenue
P.O. Box 2191
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191
732-929-2027
www.OCPONJ.gov

July 2, 2026

J.B. Brisker

Via OPRA Machine: opra+request-91795-202926f3@requests.opramachine.com

Re: Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request
OCPO Case #07041216 – Howard Thornton

Dear Sir/Madam:

This office is in receipt of your request for records under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act (OPRA) with regard to the above-referenced matter. Enclosed please find the Complaint Warrant, Affidavit in Support of Arrest, Arrest Report and Indictment, pursuant to your request. Personal identifying information has been redacted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1, et seq.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly,

s/Dina R. Khajezadeh
Dina R. Khajezadeh
Assistant Prosecutor

DRK/dk
Enclosures

COMPLAINT - WARRANT

COMPLAINT NUMBER

1519**W****2007****000030**

COURT CODE

PREFIX

YEAR

SEQUENCE NO.

MANTOLOKING MUNICIPAL COURT**P.O. BOX 247****MANTOLOKING****NJ 08738****(732) 899-6604 COUNTY OF: OCEAN**

of CHARGES

2

CO-DEFTS

POLICE CASE #:

070300301COMPLAINANT
NAME:**DAVID ANDERSON
119 HOOPER AVE****TOMS RIVER****NJ 08754****THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY****VS.****HOWARD THORNTON**

ADDRESS:

2858 DELPS ROAD**DANIELSVILLE****PA 18038**

DEFENDANT INFORMATION

SEX: **M** EYE COLOR:DOB: **1979**

DRIVER'S LIC. #:

DL STATE: **PA**

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

SBI #:

TELEPHONE #:

By certification or on oath, the complainant says that to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief the named defendant on or about 03-31-2007 in **MANTOLOKING BORO**, **OCEAN** County, NJ did: **WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THIS COURT, DID ATTEMPT TO COMMIT AN ACT OF SEXUAL PENETRATION WITH AN INDIVIDUAL WHOM HE BELIEVED TO BE A TWELVE (12) YEAR OLD FEMALE, BY ARRIVING AT A PRE-DETERMINED LOCATION AT A PRE-DETERMINED TIME IN ORDER TO COMMIT AN ACT OF SEXUAL PENETRATION, DEFENDANT BEING AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OLDER THAN THE VICTIM**

WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THIS COURT, DID ATTEMPT, VIA ELECTRONIC OR OTHER MEANS, TO LURE OR ENTICE A CHILD OR ONE WHOM HE REASONABLY BELIEVED TO BE A CHILD INTO A MOTOR VEHICLE, STRUCTURE OR ISOLATED AREA, OR TO MEET OR APPEAR AT ANY OTHER PLACE, WITH A PURPOSE TO COMMIT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE WITH OR AGAINST THE CHILD

CONDITION OF BAIL: THE DEFENDANT IS TO HAVE NO INTERNET ACCESS

in violation of:

Original Charge

**1) 2C:5-1A(1)
2C:14-2A(1)****2) 2C:13-6****3)**

Amended Charge

OATH:

Subscribed and sworn to me this

31

day of

Mar

, yr.

2007

Signed:



(Signature of Complainant Witness)

Signed:



(Signature of Person Administering Oath and Title)

DATE OF FIRST APPEARANCE

TIME

DATE OF ARREST **00-00-0000****PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION AND ISSUANCE OF WARRANT**☐ Probable cause **IS NOT** found for the issuance of this complaint.

Signature of Court Administrator or Deputy Court Administrator

Date

Signature of Judge

Date

☒ Probable cause **IS** found for the issuance of this complaint.

TO ANY PEACE OFFICER OR OTHER AUTHORIZED PERSON: PURSUANT TO THIS WARRANT YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO ARREST THE NAMED DEFENDANT AND BRING THAT PERSON FORTHWITH BEFORE THE COURT TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT.

Bail Amount Set: **100,000.00 /FULL** by: **Hon B A Villano RIGP**

(If different from judicial officer that issued warrant)

☒ **Domestic Violence - Confidential**☐ **Related Traffic Tickets
or Other Complaints**☐ **Serious Personal Injury/ Death
Involved****Special conditions of release:**

- ☐ No phone, mail or other personal contact w/victim
☐ No possession firearms/weapons
☐ Other (specify):

ORIGINAL

COMPLAINT - WARRANT (Court Action)

COMPLAINT NUMBER

1519 **W** **2007** **000030**

COURT CODE PREFIX YEAR SEQUENCE NO.

STATE V.

HOWARD THORNTON

FTA Bail Information Date Bail Set:

Amount Bail Set: \$

by:

☐ Bail Recog. Attached

Released on Bail (v)

R.O.R.

Committed Default

Committed w/o Bail

Place Committed:

Date Referred to County Prosecutor:

Date of First Appearance:

☐ Advised of Rights by

Defendant Desires Counsel:
☐ Yes ☐ No

Prosecuting Attorney Information

Defense Counsel Information

Name:

Name:

State

County

Municipal

Other

None

Retained

Public Def

Assigned

Waived

Other

Original Charge

1) 2C:5-1A(1)
2C:14-2A(1)

2) 2C:13-6

3)

Amended Charge

Waiver Indt/Jury

Plea/Date of Plea

Plea:

Date:

Plea:

Date:

Plea:

Date:

Adjudication (* see code)

Finding Code:

Date:

Finding Code:

Date:

Finding Code:

Date:

Jail Term

Jail time credit

Susp. Imp

Jail time credit

Susp. Imp

Jail time credit

Susp. Imp

Probation Term

Cond. Discharge Term

Community Service

D/L Suspension Term

Fines/Costs

Fines:

Costs:

Fines:

Costs:

Fines:

Costs:

VCCB/SNSF

VCCB:

SNSF:

VCCB:

SNSF:

VCCB:

SNSF:

DEDR/Lab Fee

DEDR:

LAB:

DEDR:

LAB:

DEDR:

LAB:

CD Fee/Drug Ed Fnd

CD:

DAEF:

CD:

DAEF:

CD:

DAEF:

DV Surch/Other Fees

DV:

Other:

DV:

Other:

DV:

Other:

Restitution

Beneficiary:

Miscellaneous Information, Adjournments, Companion Complaints, Co-Defendants, Case Notes:

* Finding Codes

- 1 - Guilty
- 2 - Not Guilty
- 3 - Dismissed - Other
- 4 - Guilty but Merged
- 5 - Dismissed-Rule
- 6 - Dismissed Lack of Prosecution
- 7 - Dismissed - Pros Motion/Vic Req
- 8 - Conditional Discharge
- D - Dismissed- Prosecutor Discretion
- M - Dismissed- Mediation
- P - Dismissed-Plea Agreement
- S - Disposed at Superior
- W - Dismissed-False ID

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE

DATE

ORIGINAL - Court Action

Page 2 of 7

NJ/CDR2 8/1/2005

COUNTY OF OCEAN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
VS.
HOWARD THORNTON

) AFFIDAVIT
) IN SUPPORT OF
) ARREST

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

COUNTY OF OCEAN

)
SS.
)

I, Detective David P. Anderson, Jr., of the Ocean County Sheriff's Department, currently assigned to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Computer Crime Unit, being of full age and having been sworn to law upon our oath depose and says:

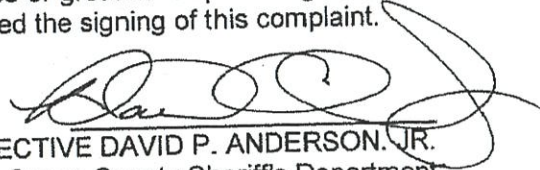
1. I am a Detective with the Ocean County Sheriff's Department, currently assigned to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Computer Crime Unit.
2. In the course of my duties, I have had occasion to investigate the criminal offenses of Attempted Aggravated Sexual Assault, N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1 and 2C:14-2a(1) and Luring, N.J.S.A. 2C:13-6.
3. I have probable cause to believe and do believe that Howard Thornton committed the acts of Attempted Aggravated Sexual Assault, N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1 and 2C:14-2(c)(3) and Luring, N.J.S.A. 2C:13-6.
4. The basis of my probable cause is as follows:
 - a. On March 17, 2007, this suspect, utilizing the Yahoo screenname [REDACTED] contacted members of the organization known as Perverted-Justice, who were posing as a twelve (12) year old female.
 - i. Perverted-Justice.com recruits volunteer contributors who pose as underage children in chatrooms. Posing from a variety of ages (standard ages are 10-15), these contributors simply go into chatrooms with fake online screen names and wait for predators to instigate conversation with them.
 - ii. Perverted-Justice has provided the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Computer Crime Unit, with the information they have obtained regarding online sexual predators in and around the Ocean County area.
 - iii. Though Perverted-Justice is acting as the online decoys, all cases brought to Ocean County have been reviewed and approved by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office.
 - b. During the course of the initial online conversation, the suspect was advised the undercover was twelve (12) years of age. The suspect identified himself as twenty-eight (28) years of age. The suspect continued to chat with the undercover. On numerous occasions between March 27, 2007 and today, during the course of these online

conversations, the suspect stated that he wished to meet the undercover for sex.

- c. On March 31, 2007, the suspect arrived at a predetermined meeting place. The suspect was arrested and identified as:

i. HOWARD THORNTON, DOB [REDACTED]/1979, SS# [REDACTED]

- d. The suspect was subsequently interviewed by Detective David P. Anderson, Jr., of the Ocean County Sheriff's Department and Investigator Colleen Lynch of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. The interview was memorialized in the form of audio and video tape. The suspect was advised of his Miranda Rights and agreed to speak with the officers without an attorney present. The suspect acknowledged that he is the sole user of the screen name Yahoo screenname [REDACTED] and that he was the individual responsible for the chats with the undercover. Additionally, the suspect stated that, if he had met a twelve (12) year old female at the meet location, he would have engaged in a sexual act with that individual.
5. The suspect has made statements to implicate himself in this matter.
6. I am signing charges of the second degree or greater. Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Madelin Einbinder has approved the signing of this complaint.


DETECTIVE DAVID P. ANDERSON, JR.
Ocean County Sheriff's Department
OCPO, Computer Crime Unit

Sworn and Subscribed before me

this 31st day of March 2007


Municipal Court Administrator



OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Arrest Report

FBI Identification Number

47318RC1

SBI Identification Number

785167D

1. Department OCPO CCU	2. Mun. Code 1589	3. Phone Number (732) - 929 - 2027	4. UCR	5. Prosecutor's Case Number 070300301	6. Dept. Case Number
7. Name (First) Howard	(Middle) J.	(Last) Thornton, III	8. Phone No. (Area)	9. Alias/Nickname	
10. Address 2858	10a. (Street) Delps Road	10b. Municipality Danielsville	10c. State PA	10d. Zip 18038	11. Place of Birth (City / State) NJ
12. Date of Birth 1979	13. Age 27	14. Sex Male	15. Race White	16. Ht 5' 7"	17. Wt 155
18. Hair Brown	19. Eyes Green	20. Complexion Fair	21. Marital Status Unknown		
22. Other Description Information - Marks - Scars - Tattoos 2 Inch Scar - Left Hip, Ankle Ffusion - Right Ankle				23. Driver's License Number	
24. Employer/School Sentimark			25. Occupation Warehouse		26. Social Security Number
27. Employer's / School Address				28. Business Phone (Area) (Extension) () - ()	

DETAILS OF ARREST

29. Arrest Date 3 / 31 / 2007	30. Time ☐ AM ☒ PM	31. Loc. Of Arrest (No. - Street) 1021 Lyman Street	31a. Municipality Mantoloking	31b. State NJ	32. Muni. Code 1519
33. Crime Attempted Sexual Assault / Luring			33a. Total Crimes 3	34. NJ Statute 2C:5-1A(1) / 2C:14-2(C)	35. Warrant/Summons Number W2007-000030-1519
36. Complainant's Name and Address-Zip Code Detective David P. Anderson, Jr. - 119 Hooper Avenue, P.O. Box 2191, Toms River, NJ 08753					37. Phone Number (Area) (732) - 929 - 2027
38. Crime Date 3 / 31 / 2007	39. Time ☐ AM ☐ PM	40. Loc. Of Arrest (No. - Street) 1021 Lyman Street	40a. Municipality Mantoloking	40b. State NJ	41. Muni. Code 1519
42. Arrest ☒ On View ☐ Warrant ☐ Summons ☐ W/O Warrant ☐ Juv. ☐ R.A.		43. Juv. Code	44. Constitutional Rights ☒ Yes ☐ No	45. Constitutional Rights - by Inv. Colleen Lynch	46. How Responded Understood / Waived
47. Own	48. Multiple	49. Other	50. Fingerprinted ☒ Yes ☐ No	51. Photographed ☒ Yes ☐ No	52. NCIC ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Wanted ☐ No Record
53. Previous Record ☐ Yes ☒ No					
54. Vehicle Information ☒ Owned ☐ Used		Year 1997	Make Dodge	Body Type Dakota	Color Green
Reg. State and Number			Other Descriptive Information - VIN 1B7GG23X0VS260618		

BAIL HEARING

55. Date 3 / 31 / 2007	56. Court Ocean County Superior Court		57. Judge Setting Bail Barbara A. Villano, JSC		
58. Amount of Bail \$100,000.00	59. Results of Hearing ☐ R.O.R. ☐ Committed in Default ☐ Committed W/O Bail ☐ Released on Bail		60. Code	61. Place Committed / Detained	

JUVENILE INFORMATION

62. Parent / Guardian - Contacted By		63. Date Contacted / /	64. Time Contacted ☐ AM ☐ PM	65. Released w/Detained at	
66. Full Address - Number - Street - Municipality - State - Zip Code			67. Phone Number (Area) () - -	68. Date / /	69. Time ☐ AM ☐ PM
70. Parent / Guardian's Name (First) (Middle) (Last)			71. Full Address - Number - Street - Municipality - state - Zip Code		72. Phone No. () - -
73. Co-Defendants / Names /					

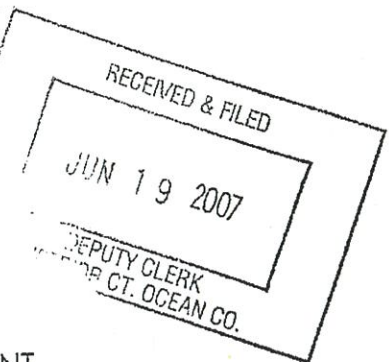
NARRATIVE

74. Narrative / Additional Charges

Suspect was arrested as a result of an online operation where he travelled to Ocean County in anticipation of meeting a twelve year old female for the purpose of engaging in an act of sexual penetration.

75. Rank / Name (Print or Type) Detective David P. Anderson, Jr.	76. Badge No. 108	77. Status ☒ Pending ☐ Completed	78. Date of Report 3 / 31 / 2007	79. Reviewed By
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SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION-OCEAN COUNTY



THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VS.

HOWARD THORNTON

Defendant :

INDICTMENT

NO. 07-06-1038

COUNT ONE -- SECOND DEGREE
ATTEMPTED AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT

The Grand Jurors of the State of New Jersey, in and for the County of Ocean, upon their oaths PRESENT that HOWARD THORNTON, between the dates of March 17- March 31, 2007, in the Borough of Mantoloking, in the County of Ocean, and within the jurisdiction of this Court, knowingly did attempt to commit an act of sexual penetration upon an individual whom he believed to be less than 13 years old, and HOWARD THORNTON was at least 4 years older than said individual, to wit: after chatting over the Internet with an individual whom he believed to be less than 13 years old, did arrive at a pre-determined location at a pre-determined time in order to commit an act of sexual penetration upon that individual, contrary to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2(a)(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1, and against the peace of this State, the Government and dignity of the same.

COUNT TWO -- SECOND DEGREE
LURING, ENTICING CHILD BY VARIOUS MEANS

The Grand Jurors of the State of New Jersey, in and for the County of Ocean, upon their oaths PRESENT that HOWARD THORNTON, between the dates of March 17- March 31, 2007, in the Borough of Mantoloking, in the County of Ocean, and within the jurisdiction of this

Court, did attempt, via electronic or any other means, to lure or entice a child or one who he reasonably believed to be a child into a motor vehicle, structure or isolated area, or to meet or appear at any other place, with a purpose to commit a criminal offense with or against the child, to wit: did arrive at a pre-determined location at a pre-determined time with the purpose to commit an act of sexual penetration upon an individual whom he believed to be a child under the age of 13 years, contrary to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2C:13-6, and against the peace of this State, the Government and dignity of the same.

THOMAS F. KELAHER
OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR

DATED: 6/19/07 By: Madelin F. Einbinder
MADELIN F. EINBINDER

ENDORSED:

Foreperson

Superior Court of New Jersey
Law Division, Ocean County

Case:

THE STATE

VS.

HOWARD THORNTON

*Case Reporter:
Gail Cutter*

INDICTMENT NO.

07-06-1038

INDICTMENT FOR

ATTEMPTED AGG. SEXUAL ASSAULT, LURING-ENTICING CHILD BY VARIOUS MEANS

THOMAS F. KELAHER
Ocean County Prosecutor

A TRUE BILL



Foreperson

Filed

Arraigned

Plea

Bail \$25,000.00

Trial Day

Verdict

Sentence

*NOT
POSTED*