

FILED IN
METROPOLITAN COURT

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO
IN THE DISTRICT COURT

2024 OCT 11 AM 8:49 No. J-4-FR-2024-7262

Case Number: NMDOJ-202410-00145

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Plaintiff,

v.

Name: Stephen Joseph Rittereiser
DOB: 12/28/1985
SOC: 090-70-9729
Race: W Sex: Male
Height: 5'11" Weight: 195
Hair: Bald/Brown Eyes: Brown
Residence: 2152 High Desert Cir NE, Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87144

Defendant,

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

The undersigned, under penalty of perjury, complains and says that on or about the 7th day of October 2024, in the City of Albuquerque, County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico, the above-named defendant did:

COUNT I

Child solicitation by electronic communication device (child 13 to 16)(6705)

in that on the 7th day of October 2024, in Bernalillo County, State of New Mexico, the above-named defendant Stephen Rittereiser did knowingly and intentionally solicit a child, and that child was at least thirteen but less than sixteen years of age, by means of an electronic communication device, to engage in sexual intercourse, sexual contact, or in a sexual or obscene performance, or to engage in any other sexual conduct when the perpetrator is at least four years older than the child, a fourth-degree felony, contrary to Section 30-37-3.2(A) and (B)(1), NMSA 1978.

I SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FACTS SET FORTH ABOVE ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY INFORMATION AND BELIEF. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE SUBJECT TO THE PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT.

Mariah Gonzales

Mariah Gonzales (Affiant)

New Mexico Department of Justice

ICAC Task Force Special Agent

**Approved as to legal sufficiency for
probable cause by:**

A.A.G. Jennifyr Vickery

If Probable Cause Determination Required: []

Probable Cause Found

[] Probable Cause Not Found, and Defendant Released from Custody

Judge: Joshua J. Sánchez

Date: October 10, 2024

Time: 8:17pm

**DECLARATION IN SUPPORT
OF WARRANT OF ARREST**

The undersigned hereby declares:

That they are a Peace Officer employed as a Special Agent for the New Mexico Department of Justice; that pursuant to their employment, they have been assigned to investigate allegations that the offense(s) of **Child solicitation by electronic communication device contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-37-3.2(A) and (B)(1)** committed by: **Stephen Joseph Rittereiser** DOB **12/28/1985**,

That your Declarant has personal knowledge as herein stated and has obtained information from various other persons not herein stated regarding the above-alleged offense(s); and that as to those matters which are not within your Declarant's personal knowledge, your Declarant is informed and does believe that the matters stated and set forth herein are true;

Your Affiant has not included every fact related to this investigation but included only those facts your Affiant believes are necessary to establish probable cause for the issuance of this arrest warrant.

On 10/7/2024, the New Mexico Department of Justice, with the assistance of surrounding local agencies, was executing a proactive operation related to the sexual exploitation of children.

Detective J. Dennison of the Albuquerque Police Department was using the website Skipthegames.com and posing as a 15-year-old female. Detective J. Dennison posted the advertisement on Skipthegames.com. On 10/7/2024, at approximately 6:36 p.m., Detective J. Dennison received a text message from (505) 304-1055. The user messaged Detective J. Dennison's undercover cell phone number, linked to the posted Skipthegames.com ad. The text messages started at 6:36 PM, and the (505) 304-1055 number was told at 6:39 PM that the undercover profile was 15 years old. Immediately the (505) 304-1055 responds "You can handle a big cock?" The undercover profile sends (505) 304-1055 a clothed photo of the undercover profile's face to which the (505) 304-1055 later responds with a photo of himself. At 7:04 PM (505) 304-1055 sent a photograph of a male sitting on a couch in plaid boxer briefs holding his erect penis saying, "here is another pic." The (505) 304-1055 user continues the sexual conversation asking the undercover profile to "sit on daddy's lap and ride daddy's big dick." The undercover profile again state's she is 15. A meeting was scheduled, but the suspect did not appear.

Utilizing open-source investigative and law enforcement tools, NMDOJ Investigator P. Linthicum identified that the phone number is operated by New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC (AT&T Mobility) and that the number was assigned to Stephen J. Rittereiser, born in December 1985. Investigator P. Linthicum also located a Facebook for Stephen Rittereiser and located a photograph matching the photograph's description sent to Detective Dennison. Below is the image located on the Facebook page for Stephen Rittereiser.

Through a Motor Vehicle Records check, Investigators located New Mexico driver's license information for Stephen Joseph Rittereiser, DOB 12/28/1985, with an address of 2152 High Desert Cir NE, Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Comparing the MVD photo, the Facebook photo, and the photo sent to the undercover photo, the Affiant identified that the male individual was Mr. Rittereiser in all three photos. Affiant also identified that the male individual pictured in the MVD photo has the same neck tattoo as the "selfie" image that was sent to the undercover profile.

Based on the investigation, Mr. Rittereiser did solicit a child under sixteen years of age, by means of an electronic communication device, to engage in sexual intercourse, sexual contact, or in a sexual or obscene performance, or to engage in any other sexual conduct. Mr. Rittereiser also sent a multimedia message, a still image of his erect penis, to the intended victim, believing he was communicating with a 15-year-old female.

Your Declarant knows that the arrest warrant for Stephen Joseph Rittereiser, once entered into law enforcement databases, will be available to law enforcement officers across New Mexico. Your Declarant cannot reasonably predict where Stephen Joseph Rittereiser may be contacted or what time during the day or night when that contact and arrest will occur. As such, your Declarant requests that Night Service be authorized allowing the arrest warrant to be active at anytime allowing officers to facilitate the arrest and service of the arrest warrant.

REQUEST

Based on the aforementioned facts, I respectfully request a warrant be issued, upon probable cause, for the arrest of Stephen Joseph Rittereiser.

Mariah Gonzales

Mariah Gonzales, Special Agent
New Mexico Department of Justice

Electronically Approved by:
A.A.G. Jennifyr Vickery