

AG Fitch Announces 20-Year Sentence in Child Exploitation Case



Our investigators and prosecutors are committed to holding individuals who exploit children accountable for their crimes. We are proud to work with our law enforcement partners to help these victims achieve justice and closure, and help protect other children from abuse. If you suspect a child is being exploited or abused, please report it to my office. Together, we can make Mississippi a safer place for our children.

Lynn Fitch

(Jackson, Mississippi) Today, Attorney General Lynn Fitch announced the sentencing of former Reservoir Police Officer Rodney Jernigan, of Raleigh, Mississippi, for two counts of child exploitation. This case was investigated and prosecuted by the Mississippi Attorney General's Office, with assistance from the Smith County Sheriff's Office, Raleigh Police Department, Faribault County Sheriff's Office (Minnesota), and District Attorney Chris Hennis' Office.

"Our investigators and prosecutors are committed to holding individuals who exploit children accountable for their crimes," **said Attorney General Lynn Fitch.** "We are proud to work with our law enforcement partners to help these victims achieve justice and closure, and help protect other children from abuse. If you suspect a child is being exploited or abused, please report it to my office. Together, we can make Mississippi a safer place for our children."

On May 15, 2026, 13th Circuit Court **Judge Stanley Sorey** sentenced Jernigan to 40 years for each count, with 20 years to serve day-for-day without the possibility of parole in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) and 20 on probation. His sentences will be served concurrently. He was ordered to pay a \$1,000 assessment to the Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund and \$1,000 to the Mississippi Children's Trust Fund. Jernigan must also register as a sex offender.



This case originated from tips from concerned parents about their children being solicited online for sexually explicit photos and videos. Open communication with your children about their habits online is an important tool for keeping them safe. The Attorney General's Office has materials available to help parents and teachers talk to children about online safety:

- [Guide to Internet Safety for Parents](#)
- [Guide to Internet Safety for Kids](#)
- [Sextortion: Reporting & Resources for Minors](#)

If you have information about a child being sexually exploited online, please report it to 1-800-843-5678. You can also make a report online at www.cybertipline.org. The hotline is manned by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and tips are reported to the Attorney General's Office, which runs the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force for Mississippi.

###

Media Contact

MaryAsa Lee

MaryAsa.Lee@ago.ms.gov



MS Attorney General's Office | 550 High Street Suite 1200 | Jackson, MS 39201 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!