

**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR  
COUNTY OF WARREN**

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BRENTON S. WARNE  
*Chief of Detectives*  
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*Deputy Chief of Detectives*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**CHARGED:**

**John A. Degroat  
440 Green St.  
Phillipsburg NJ 08865  
DOB: August 2, 1977**

On July 28, 2023 in the Town of Philipsburg the above individual engaged in online communications with an individual whom he believed to be a fifteen year old male. The communications were sexually explicit and Degroat invited the individual to his home for sexual purposes. The individual in question was an adult male posing as a fifteen year old child.

As a result, John Degroat was charged with:

1. Third Degree Attempted Endangering the Welfare of a Child, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1/2C:24-4(a)(1). A third degree charge carries a potential penalty of up to five (5) years New Jersey State Prison.

Please be advised that the charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Approved by:

  
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JAMES L. PFEIFFER  
Warren County Prosecutor

Dated: August 17, 2023