

# OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR COUNTY OF WARREN

413 Second Street, Belvidere, New Jersey 07823  
Phone: (908) 475-6275; Fax: (908) 475-6344

ANTHONY A. PICIONE  
*ACTING COUNTY PROSECUTOR*

KEVIN R. BROTZMAN  
*Acting Chief Assistant Prosecutor*  
WENDY H. RILEY  
*Manager*



BRENTON S. WARNE  
*Acting Chief of Detectives*  
MELISSA A. FEHR  
*Acting Deputy Chief of Detectives*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Joseph A. Gares**  
**DOB: June 8, 1958**  
**262 Heckman Street**  
**Phillipsburg, NJ 08865**

Acting Warren County Prosecutor Anthony Picione, Acting Chief of Detectives Brenton Warne, and Phillipsburg Police Department Police Chief Robert Stettner announce that on July 25, 2024, a Warren County jury found Joseph Gares, age 66 of Phillipsburg, New Jersey, guilty of:

1. Aggravated Sexual Assault, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2a(1), a crime of the First Degree;
2. Criminal Attempted Aggravated Sexual Assault, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1a & 2C:14-2a(1), a crime of the Second Degree;
3. Four Counts of Sexual Assault, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2b, each a crime of the Second Degree;
4. Lewdness, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-4b(1), a crime of the Fourth Degree; and
5. Endangering the Welfare of a Child, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(1), a crime of the Second Degree.

The jury found Gares not guilty of one count of First Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault.

The sexual acts occurred in 2012 through 2016 when the victim was between the ages of 8 and 11 years old.

The Honorable H. Matthew Curry, J.S.C. presided over the trial. Gares is tentatively scheduled for sentencing on August 30, 2024.

At sentencing, Gares faces a sentence of 25 years to Life in New Jersey State Prison, subject to the Jessica Lunsford Act. He will also be subject to registration pursuant to Megan's Law and Parole Supervision for Life.

The State was represented by S.D.A.G. / Acting Assistant Prosecutors Gloria Rispoli and Brent DiMarco at trial. Acting Prosecutor Picione commended both of the Acting Assistant Prosecutors along with Detective Jaime Russoniello for their outstanding work in investigating and prosecuting this case. Acting Prosecutor Picione would also like to thank the Warren County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit, the Phillipsburg Police Department, and the Pennsylvania State Police for their efforts in this case.

Dated: July 25, 2024

Approved by:



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ANTHONY A. PICIONE  
Acting Prosecutor