## OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR COUNTY OF WARREN

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## PRESS RELEASE

## CHARGED: JOSEPH FORTUGNO STEWARTSVILLE, NEW JERSEY AGE: 33

On Wednesday, April 24, 2024, following an investigation that spanned several months, Joseph Fortugno was charged with two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child for possessing and intending to distribute images that depict child sexual abuse. The investigation began after law enforcement received notice that several images of a young child posing in a sexual manner were uploaded online. Through various investigative means, detectives were able to link the source of the uploads to Joseph Fortugno's residence. In addition, law enforcement also uncovered that the suspect intended to send the images to others online. Following the execution of the search warrant, the suspect was charged with the following:

- 1) Endangering the Welfare of a Child for knowingly possessing images that depict child sexual abuse, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4b(5)(b)(iii), a crime of the third degree.
- 2) Endangering the Welfare of a Child for knowingly possessing images that depict child sexual abuse with the intent to distribute, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4b(5)(a)(ii), a crime of the second degree.

Second degree crimes carry a maximum sentence of 10 years in New Jersey State Prison, and third degree crimes carry a maximum sentence of 5 years in New Jersey State Prison.

The charges are merely accusations. The defendant is presumed innocent **until and unless** proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The Warren County Prosecutor's Office Cyber Crimes Unit and the Greenwich Township Police Department conducted the Investigation. The Warren County Prosecutor's Office and Greenwich Township Police Department were assisted by the United States Secret Service, Blairstown Township Police Department, and New Jersey State Police Polygraph Unit.

Brenton S. Warne

**Acting Chief of Detectives**