

**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR  
COUNTY OF WARREN**

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*Acting Chief of Detectives*  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**ARRESTED: MATTHEW CANAVAN  
HACKETTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY  
AGE: 33**

The above individual was charged and arrested following an investigation by the Independence Township Police Department and the Warren County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit.

On May 21, 2024, Independence Township Police Department received notification regarding a sexual assault of a 15 year old victim. During the investigation, the suspect was identified as Matthew Canavan who was known to the victim.

On May 23, 2024, Matthew Canavan was arrested and charged with the following offenses:

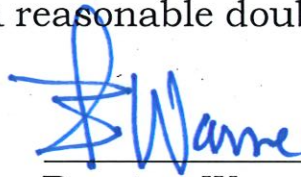
- 1) Sexual Assault, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C: 14-2c(1), a crime of the second degree.
- 2) Sexual Assault, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C: 14-2c(4), a crime of the second degree.
- 3) Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C: 24-4a(1), a crime of the third degree.
- 4) Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C: 24-4a(2), a crime of the third degree.

5) Two counts of Criminal Sexual Contact in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C: 14-3b, crimes of the fourth degree.

Matthew Canavan is currently being held in the Warren County Correctional Center pending a Detention Hearing in Warren County Superior Court.

Second degree crimes carry a maximum sentence of 10 years in New Jersey State Prison, third degree crimes carry a maximum sentence of 5 years in New Jersey State Prison, and fourth degree crimes carry a maximum sentence of 18 months 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.



Brenton Warne  
Acting Chief of Detectives

05/29/24  
Date