

**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR  
COUNTY OF WARREN**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**ARRESTED:           MICHAEL A. ESTLER  
                              WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY  
                              AGE: 32**

On Monday, January 06, 2025, the Washington Township Police Department received notification regarding a sexual assault of a 9 year old victim. During the investigation, the suspect was identified as Michael Estler who was known to the victim.

Michael Estler was arrested and charged with the following offenses:

- 1) Two counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2a(1), a crime of the first degree.
- 2) Two counts of Sexual Assault, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2b, a crime of the second degree.
- 3) Lewdness, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-4b(1), a crime of the fourth degree.
- 4) Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(1), a crime of the second degree.

The first degree Aggravated Sexual Assault crimes carry a maximum sentence of 25 years to life, the second degree crimes carry a maximum sentence of 10 years, and the fourth degree crime carries a maximum sentence of 18 months in New Jersey State Prison.

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

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 investigation was conducted by the Washington Township Police Department and the Warren County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit.