

February 11th, 2026

Auburndale Police Department News Release

Media Contact:

Officer Jazmine Jaimes

863.251.3113

jjaimes@auburndalefl.com

Auburndale Detectives Arrests Man for Attempted Sexual Acts with Minor He Met Online



Professional Police Service

*The Auburndale Police Department is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc.
Chief of Police Terry J. Storie*



2 Bobby Green Plaza
Auburndale, FL 33823

The Auburndale Police Department Criminal Investigation and Special Enforcement Units recently conducted an undercover operation that led to the arrest of a 36-year-old Hispanic man who attempted to engage in lewd and illegal sexual acts with a minor. Auburndale Detectives made contact with a person who identified himself as "Larry," later confirmed to be Milton Reinerio Pena-Hernandez (DOB: 01/01/1990) of Bradenton, Florida. Milton believed he was communicating with a 14-year-old girl but was actually speaking with undercover detectives.

Over the course of seven days, Milton repeatedly sent explicit messages and images to detectives and offered \$60 in exchange for illegal sex acts with him. He also made multiple plans to travel and meet the minor in person, despite stating several times that he did not want "trouble" because of her age. On February 10, 2026, he traveled to an undisclosed location to meet the person he believed was the 14-year-old girl. Upon his arrival, detectives identified and arrested him without incident.

Following his arrest, Milton told investigators that he is a Honduran national currently in the United States unlawfully. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was notified, and the immigration status investigation is ongoing and has been turned over to federal immigration authorities. Milton was booked into the Polk County Jail on 18 felony charges, including transmission of harmful material to a minor, attempted lewd battery, unlawful use of a two-way communication device, and traveling to meet a minor after using a computer to lure or entice a child into illegal sexual acts. The 18 felony charges will be enhanced due to Milton being in the country illegally.

The arrest took place on February 10th ironically the same day designated as "Safer Internet Day." A reminder to the community to promote safe and responsible online behavior. The Auburndale Police Department encourages parents and guardians to stay actively involved in their children's online activities and to report any suspicious behavior to the Auburndale Police Department at 863-965-5555.

xxx

Officer Jazmine Jaimes
Auburndale Police Department
Professional Standards Unit

Professional Police Service

*The Auburndale Police Department is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc.
Chief of Police Terry J. Storie*