

Vale Man Arrested on 18 Felony Charges Following Internet Crimes Against Children Investigation

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

LINCOLNTON, N.C. —The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office has arrested Mark Allen McMickle, 58, of Vale, following an investigation involving child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

The investigation began after the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office received a CyberTip through the North Carolina Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force regarding suspected online activity involving child sexual abuse material.

During the investigation, detectives identified and seized a cellular phone believed to contain evidence related to the reported activity. After obtaining a search warrant, a forensic examination of the device was conducted.

The investigation identified nine videos containing suspected child sexual abuse material that had been received and possessed on the device.

As a result of the investigation, McMickle was charged with 18 felony offenses:

- Nine counts of Second-Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, related to the receipt of the nine videos.
- Nine counts of Third-Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, related to the possession of those same nine videos.

McMickle was arrested and served with the warrants on November 5, 2026, and transported to the Harven A. Crouse Detention Center, where he was booked under a $500,000 secured bond.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office remains committed to investigating crimes involving the sexual exploitation of children and protecting children from online exploitation.

Anyone with additional information regarding this investigation or other suspected Internet Crimes Against Children offenses is encouraged to contact Detective J. Sorenson with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division at 704-732-9050.