



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
CHARLESTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ) Criminal No.: 2:26-mj-20  
 )  
 v. )  
 )  
 KEVIN PHILLIP HEDGPETH )

**Affidavit in Support of a Criminal Complaint**

I, Special Agent (“SA”) Deborah Hansell, hereinafter “Affiant,” being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

**A. Introduction and Agent Background**

1. I am an SA with the Department of Homeland Security Investigations (“HSI”) and have been since 2019. I know it is a violation of federal law for a person to knowingly, receive, access, or possess any child pornography using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce, including by computer. I also know it is a violation of federal law for a person to knowingly employ, use, persuade, induce, entice, and coerce a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct. I also have personally participated in multiple investigations related to child exploitation, child pornography, and Child Sexual Abuse Material (“CSAM”).

2. I have set forth only the facts I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to issue the requested arrest warrant.

**B. Target Offenses**

3. I submit this affidavit in support of a request that the Court approve a criminal complaint charging **KEVIN PHILLIP HEDGPETH** with violating: (1) 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2)(*Possession of Child Pornography*); and (2) 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e)(*Production and Attempted Production of Child Pornography*).

4. Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(5)(B) prohibits a person from knowingly possessing child pornography using any means or facility of interstate commerce, including by computer. I know that statute is violated when the following elements are satisfied:

- a. First, the defendant possessed or accessed with intent to view, any book, magazine, periodical, film, videotape, computer disk, or any other material that contained an image of child pornography;
- b. Second, that had been mailed, or shipped or transported using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, or was produced using materials that had been mailed, or shipped or transported in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including by computer; and
- c. Third, the defendant acted knowingly.

5. Title 18, United States Code, Section 2251(a) prohibits a person from knowingly employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing, and coercing a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct, or attempting to do so. I know that statute is violated when the following elements are satisfied:

- a. First, the defendant employed and persuaded a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct;
- b. Second, the defendant acted with the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct, or attempted to do so;
- c. Third, the visual depiction was actually transmitted using any means or facility of interstate commerce;
- d. Fourth, the visual depiction was produced using materials that have been transported in affecting interstate commerce by any means, including by computer; and
- e. Fifth, the defendant knew that the visual depiction would be transmitted using any means or facility of interstate commerce.

6. As for the Target Offenses, I know the following to be relevant statutory definitions:

- a. “*Child Pornography*” (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8)) as is any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where (a) the production of the visual depiction involved the use of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, (b) the visual

depiction is a digital image, computer image, or computer-generated image that is, or is indistinguishable from, that of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, or (c) the visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

- b. “*Computer*” is defined as “an electronic, magnetic, optical, electrochemical, or other high speed data processing device performing logical or storage functions, and includes any data storage facility or communications facility directly related to or operating in conjunction with such device” and includes smartphones, other mobile phones, and other mobile devices. See 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(1).
- c. “*Minor*” means any person under the age of 18 years. See 18 U.S.C. § 2256(1).
- d. “*Sexually explicit conduct*” applies to visual depictions that involve the use of a minor, see 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8)(A), or that have been created, adapted, or modified to appear to depict an identifiable minor, see 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8)(C). In those contexts, the term refers to actual or simulated sexual intercourse (including genital-genital, oral-genital, or oral-anal), whether between persons of the same or opposite sex; bestiality; masturbation; sadistic or masochistic abuse; or lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic areas of any person. See 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2)(A).
- e. “*Visual depictions*” include undeveloped film and videotape, and data stored on computer disk or by electronic means, which is capable of conversion into a visual image. See 18 U.S.C. § 2256(5).

**C. Probable Cause**

7. On or about January 14, 2026, I received information regarding an individual in South Carolina who had been identified in a forum on a social media platform (Social Media Platform 1) that was facilitating the possession and/or purchase of child pornography of an identified minor victim of child exploitation, Minor Female Victim (“MFV”). HSI agents in New York identified this forum on that platform and attempted to identify all users connected to the forum. Agents identified one user as Kevin Phillip Hedgpeth, a resident of Hanahan, South Carolina through an administrative subpoena for subscriber information to Social Media Platform 1. The subscriber e-mail address for the user’s account resolved to [kevin.hedgpeth@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.hedgpeth@gmail.com). Based on the location of Hedgpeth’s residence, HSI-Charleston assumed lead on the investigation of Hedgpeth with HSI-NY providing support.

8. Hedgpeth holds a position of public trust as a member of the Hanahan, South Carolina City Council. Hedgpeth also serves as the Mayor Pro Tem.

9. The majority of identified activity on that account on Social Media Platform 1 resolved to an AT&T IP address registered to Hedgpeth's home address in Hanahan, South Carolina. Hedgpeth's address was confirmed through multiple financial applications listing it as his residence, and his driver's license and vehicle registrations on file with the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

*Border Search and Stated Interest in Young Persons*

10. Hedgpeth had a history of interaction with federal agents. Law enforcement records revealed that Hedgpeth was the subject of a border search on April 4, 2024, in Florida after he had been sent for secondary inspection by Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") officers. According to the report of an HI agent on scene, Hedgpeth was a passenger of a cruise ship when he was sent to secondary inspection by CBP. During the secondary inspection, CBP found what they believed was child pornography. CBP contacted HSI to assist.

11. HSI responded to Port Canaveral, Florida and informed Hedgpeth he was not under arrest. Hedgpeth identified himself as an elected official and working at the office of his church. Hedgpeth said he liked to look at girls in bikinis and that the pictures in question were not from anyone on the ship but instead were from the internet. Hedgpeth stated he obtained the images on Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook.

12. During the interview, Hedgpeth identified his cellphone as having a number that ended in -9976 (which is the same number used to subscribe the Apple accounts with child pornography described below). During the interview, Hedgpeth was asked about multiple applications on his phone, including a calculator app known to agents as being used to hide contraband such as child pornography. Hedgpeth said he had pictures of girls and boys, and he

provided the agent with the passcode to the applications. Hedgpeth said the pictures were of girls in bikinis or nude, that he did not want his wife to see them, and that he paid for some of the photos.

13. Hedgpeth said he liked them young but 18 years old. During the search of the device, HSI documented the device as having a phone number that ended in -1228, which differed from the number provided by Hedgpeth in the interview. The number ending in -1228 is the same number associated with the account that chatted with the Minor Male Victim described below, during which Hedgpeth caused the minor to produce child pornography.

14. HSI's search of the device with the phone number -1228 revealed the e-mail account [kevin.hedgpeth@mdlz.com](mailto:kevin.hedgpeth@mdlz.com). That e-mail address is associated with the Apple account described below, and with Hedgpeth accounts on the following applications: Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Discord, Grinder, Snapchat, Telegram, and Mega.

15. HSI reviewed images on Hedgpeth's phone and determined the girls in bikinis were likely adults, while some images were age difficult in that subjects appeared to be teenagers who may be under or over 18. Hedgpeth was allowed to return into the United States without arrest.

#### Child Exploitation Transactions

16. In February 2026, I was provided records from HSI-NY agents who subpoenaed Cash App for records of accounts belonging to Hedgpeth (Hedgpeth had more than one account on the platform). One of the Cash App accounts attributed to Hedgpeth was listed on a CyberTip<sup>1</sup> received by NCMEC on February 20, 2026, submitted by Cash App (records were produced by Block, Inc., which operates Cash App). The account had the subscriber name "Kevin Hedgpeth,"

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<sup>1</sup> The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children ("NCMEC") is a private nonprofit corporation with a mission to help find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization. One of the services it provides is the national CyberTipline. Reports to the CyberTipline are made by the public and electronic service providers. The CyberTipline reporting mechanism assists law enforcement with the detection and investigation of child sexual exploitation crimes.

the phone number -1228, and it was registered to his address in Hanahan, SC. The tip reported conduct beginning January 2, 2024, the tip identified multiple accounts belonging to minors, and it listed five recipients of suspected child pornography, including the account associated with Hedgpeth. The tip identified the transactions as suspected child exploitation due to the age disparity between parties, and the notes or comments listed on transactions. I reviewed account records and determined Hedgpeth's Cash App accounts used for such activity had been closed due to the suspicious transactions highlighted by Cash App, which required Hedgpeth to find an alternate method of paying for content.

17. I was able to determine through open-source tools that kevin.hedgpeth@gmail.com and phone number -9976 were associated with PayPal accounts. On February 20, 2026, I received records from PayPal and Venmo after submitting a subpoena seeking subscriber information and activity logs for accounts associated with Hedgpeth's phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Venmo is a service offered by PayPal that also allows peer-to-peer payments. The suspect Venmo account listed Hedgpeth's date of birth, social security number, his phone number ending in -9976, and a subscriber e-mail address with his first and last name, [kevin.hedgpeth@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.hedgpeth@gmail.com). The suspect PayPal account subscriber information also listed [kevin.hedgpeth@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.hedgpeth@gmail.com), his phone number ending in -9976, Hedgpeth's Hanahan, SC address, his date of birth, and his social security number.

18. In March 2026, the Honorable Molly H. Cherry, United States Magistrate Judge, authorized federal search warrants for Cash App and PayPal accounts associated with Hedgpeth through his home address, date of birth, name, social security number, and Bank of America account. A review of account activity shows Hedgpeth has paid many children who appear to be victims of sexual exploitation based on identifying information associated with those minors being listed on the account records and several accounts belonging to minors being associated with

CyberTips.

19. From December 2021 to present, Hedgpeth's Cash App and PayPal accounts have engaged in money transactions with approximately 47 accounts that were either directly associated with minors or suspected of being involved in selling content of an unidentified nature. Many of those transactions are associated with minors who are identified in NCMEC CyberTips from Snapchat and Cash App as likely victims of child exploitation.

20. Hedgpeth had transactions with one account confirmed to be associated with an adult who was arrested for child exploitation violations in 2021 and who confessed to trading child pornography on social media.

21. By way of example, Hedgpeth's peer to peer payment accounts engaged in the following transactions:

- a. Hedgpeth's Cash App sent four payments (Cash App Token -hm53<sup>2</sup>) in the amount of \$20.00 each between October 23, 2023, and December 3, 2023. The account paid belonged to a minor female living in Summerville, SC who was about 16 years old at the time. A CyberTip from Snap indicated the minor's account was suspected of distributing self-produced child pornography.
- b. Hedgpeth's Cash App sent eleven payments (Cash App Token -hyqn) ranging from \$10.00 to \$40.00 between June 1 and 11, 2023. The account paid belonged to the MFV on Social Media Platform 1 referenced in paragraph 7. MFV would have been about 14 years old at the time of the transactions. In a forensic interview conducted by HSI in March 2025, MFV described selling sexually explicit content, including content of various objects penetrating her vagina and mouth.
- c. Hedgpeth's PayPal account sent one payment (Account -9975) in the amount of \$20.00 on March 2, 2025. The note for the transaction was "Uber." The account paid belonged to a minor female in the Charleston, South Carolina area who was a frequent runaway. Near the time of the payment, law enforcement reports indicate the minor was on runaway status.
- d. Hedgpeth's PayPal account sent nine payments (Account -5587) between December 21, 2024, and January 15, 2025. The account paid was party to a dispute with Hedgpeth PayPal over the transfer of foreign currency (CAD) for \$143.60 in

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<sup>2</sup> A Cash App Token as listed here is an identifier listed by Block, Inc in all returned Cash App records. This identifier is part of identity history and is how Cash App assigns a unique account identifier.

December 2024. Hedgpeth was listed as the sender on the disputed transaction. The following are comments uploaded by Account -5587:

*“Yes I need my money cause I didn’t receive my payment on roblox”*

*“I need it back as I didn’t mean to refund the money and he is trying to get my products I sent him for free”*

*“No he payed me for the product I provided him on Snapchat he is trying to scam me out of my money I have well earned with the product he bought”*

*“Yes I need my money cause I didn’t receive my payment on roblox”<sup>3</sup>*

22. As part of the investigation, I also determined that Hedgpeth had Mega and Telegram accounts, both of which are current and active. Through an information request returned from Mega and a search warrant served on Google, I determined that Hedgpeth had an active Mega account linked to a Gmail account attributed to him and linked to the IP address for his residence. Through open-source tools, I was also able to attribute his phone number ending in -1228 to a Telegram account. The subscriber information associated with both accounts resolves to Hedgpeth’s e-mail addresses or phone numbers and his residential IP address. Based on my training and experience, I know that Mega and Telegram are commonly used by individuals attempting to receive, possess, and distribute child pornography.

*Child Pornography on Hedgpeth Apple Accounts*

23. On March 19, 2026, I served a federal search warrant authorized by Honorable Molly H. Cherry on Apple, Inc. for records associated with accounts attributed to Hedgpeth, and I received records in response from Apple on April 3, 2026. Records show Hedgpeth controls the identified iCloud accounts, including based on a review of GPS information located on media content, personal family images, images of Hedgpeth, receipts, a picture of Hedgpeth’s driver’s license, and other identifying information.

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<sup>3</sup> Initial checks with Roblox, an online platform and game creation system, revealed no account associated with the Hedgpeth identifiers that I provided the platform.

24. One of the iCloud accounts (Apple account 283334744) is subscribed to e-mail address [kevin.hedgpeth@mdlz.com](mailto:kevin.hedgpeth@mdlz.com), which was observed by HSI on Hedgpeth's phone during the border search in April 2024. It is also subscribed to the phone number ending in -9976 that Hedgpeth identified for agents in the April 2024, interview.<sup>4</sup> T-Mobile subscriber information for that number resolves to "Kevin Hedgpeth" at his home address. The iCloud account is also subscribed to Hedgpeth's residential address in Hanahan, South Carolina. The account has frequent logins from IP address 107.133.24.198, which is an IP that is subscribed to Hedgpeth in his name and at his home address in Hanahan, South Carolina.

25. I submit there is probable cause to believe Hedgpeth possessed child pornography in that I located the following child pornography files stored on Hedgpeth's Apple iCloud account that is identified above:

- a. **14yo\_girl\_is\_so\_wet\_masturbate\_like\_pro\_Girl\_Hebephilia\_Softcore.webm:** The video was inaccessible for viewing possibly due to only partial records being available or due to an attempt to delete the video. The file was dated December 4, 2024. Based on my training and experience, the title is consistent with the file being child pornography.
- b. **-7337766641232357730.MP4:** The video is approximately 10 minutes and 58 seconds. The video featured two minor males approximately 12 to 15 years old. The video appears to be self-produced inside a child's bedroom. One minor male exposed his penis to the camera at minute 2:43 and manually stimulated it. The minor stared at a screen and appeared to receive cues or requests before he responded by conducting the requested sexually explicit activity on camera. The minor male took off his shorts and continued to masturbate in front of the camera before turning it over to show the second minor male also masturbating. The two minors then both masturbate with the focal point of the video being on their erect penises. After receiving another cue from the screen, the first minor male then manually stimulated the second minor male's erect penis. The video was dated as accessed on January 25, 2026.
- c. **4512583554448741810.MP4:** The video is approximately 55 minutes long. The video featured two females who appear to be 14 to 16 years old. The females monitored a screen as the video recorded, and they appeared to take instruction from someone. The females both followed instruction and lifted their tops/bathing

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<sup>4</sup> Further showing his control over the number and account, Hedgpeth's number ending in -9976 is also attributed to an iCloud account and Apple ID e-mail in the name of one of Hedgpeth's minor sons.

suits up to expose their breasts. The females then both followed instruction and rubbed their breasts and stimulated their nipples. A blonde female wearing blue bottoms then followed instructions to stimulate her clitoris and vaginal area and appeared to finger herself for the camera. A second female with curly brown hair then exposed her vagina to the camera and began manually stimulating her clitoris. Both females then removed their panties and exposed their bare buttocks, butthole, and vagina to the camera. The females proceeded through the video to fully remove their clothes, manually stimulate their vaginal areas, and then used hairbrushes to simulate oral and vaginal sex. The video was dated as accessed on January 25, 2026. The video was stamped as being conducted on Thundr.TV (a known replacement to Omegle and known for child exploitation activity).

- d. **1\_5039585243531576372.MP4**: The video is approximately 2 minutes and 42 seconds long. It featured a minor female who was fully nude and recording in a selfie-like manner with what appeared to be a personal device. The female said to the camera, "I'm only thirteen. You're hurting me. Stop..." The female appeared to be in a bathroom and then adjusted the camera to show her vaginal area as the focal point of the video. She then began to manually stimulate her vaginal area as she emotionally said "stop." She continued to show her vaginal area and breasts in the camera and sat on the sink to record the manual stimulation of her vaginal area. The video was dated accessed on May 10, 2024.
  - e. **6449533399548742628.MP4**: The video is approximately 54 minutes long and showed a minor female who appeared to be approximately 9 to 12 years old. She was staring at the screen and receiving instructions. In the video, she argued with the person she was interacting with and did not want to take off her bra or underwear. She then took off her top and proceeded to become fully nude. The recording captured her manually stimulating her clitoris with the focal point of the video being her vaginal area. The minor then took a shower fully nude and again stimulated her clitoris and vaginal area.
  - f. I found other videos on the return that represented child pornography but are not described in detail here. In several, Hedgpeth appeared to be recording interactions on Snapchat that were taking place on a separate cellphone. Some of these video recordings of interactions on Snapchat with possible minors were shown as geolocated around Hedgpeth's residence using an iPhone 14 Pro Max (modified date March 9, 2025, with EXIF create date of October 21, 2023; EXIF stands for Exchangeable Image File Format, and the create date is the date the metadata embedded in digital content which recorded the exact date and time the content was taken).
26. I further submit there is probable cause to believe Hedgpeth caused the production of child pornography and attempted to produce child pornography where he repeatedly requested the minor boy described below to produce child pornography to him, and where he caused the

minor to produce the content described below. The conduct described below was found on the Apple iCloud account (Apple account 17273859465) in the name of [kevin.hedgpeth@positecgroup.com](mailto:kevin.hedgpeth@positecgroup.com),<sup>5</sup> Hedgpeth's phone number ending in -1228 (which is the number HSI documented as the call number of his phone that was reviewed at the border search), and Hedgpeth's employment at Positec (i.e. images of work related notes and documents):

- a. Message logs for this Apple account associated with Hedgpeth shows it was in communication with a phone number associated with a minor, according to a CyberTip filed by Snapchat in August 2024. Snapchat filed the CyberTip due to the suspected minor's account sending self-produced child pornography.
- b. During the chats, Hedgpeth repeatedly discussed the Minor Male Victim's ("MMV") development over time, including the changing size of the minor's penis, the growth of pubic hair, and whether the MMV had developed hair under his arms.
- c. MMV was approximately 12 to 13 years old during the chats, and his brother was 14 to 15 years old over the span of the messages. Hedgpeth requested sexually explicit content be made by MMV and for MMV to try to produce sexually explicit content with his brother.
- d. The conversations appeared to start on Snapchat, and MMV frequently asked for money in exchange for the child pornography produced so that MMV could purchase various items, such as a bike.
- e. A review of the content makes it apparent that Hedgpeth received multiple videos from MMV, and MMV responses confirm money was exchanged. In other words, it appears Hedgpeth was successful in encouraging MMV to engage in and record sex acts and that Hedgpeth paid the minor for those recorded sex acts.
- f. Hedgpeth knew MMV was a minor. In a message on February 11, 2026, MMV told Hedgpeth that he was 13 years old (confirming he was 12 when initial messages began). Even after MMV disclosed his age, Hedgpeth continued to request "naked" content of MMV. And prior to that message, MMV made multiple references to parents, school, his ongoing physical development, and being grounded, all indicating his minor status.
- g. The following is an excerpt of some of the messages exchanged between MMV and Hedgpeth from February 2025 to February 2026, which show that Hedgpeth caused child pornography of MMV to be produced, and that he attempted to do so, in exchange for money:

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<sup>5</sup> On LinkedIn, Hedgpeth identifies Positec as his employer.

**July 5, 2025**

**HEDGPETH:** Flexing vids . . . a vid standing and pulling your underwear down and a boner vid

**MMV:** 40?

**HEDGPETH:** A full on j/o and cum with voice would be 40  
I'll send another 10, so 50 total . . . and do a strip and flex vid in the mirror and just say look how big my "age" cock is getting and then like zoom in on it and play with it and your balls

**October 6, 2025**

**HEDGPETH:** Send me some naked flexing videos

**MMV:** There is 1  
[OBJ]<sup>6</sup>  
There is 2  
[OBJ]

**November 30, 2025**

**MMV:** [OBJ]  
[OBJ]

**MMV:** Can I get 50 for both

**HEDGPETH:** Oh shit! That's actual cum!  
I want more pics!

**MMV:** Of what

**HEDGPETH:** Your pubes and dick and stuff

**MMV:** Can I get 50 after all that

**HEDGPETH:** Talk, tell me about that dick and those pubes . . . and those balls full of cum

**MMV:** My mom and dad are in the next room can I get the money then just do that later

**February 11, 2026**

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<sup>6</sup> Based on the messages exchanged and the fact that this symbol was observed within the chat, it would indicate that content was sent or was at least attempted. Based on the reactions to the messages, I submit it is likely that Hedgpeth received content, such as images or videos.

**HEDGPETH:** Oh, how old is he?

**MMV:** I'm 13 [REDACTED name of MMV's minor brother] is 15

**HEDGPETH:** Would [REDACTED name of MMV's minor brother] flash his dick with you? Like nothing crazy just standing there side by side and pull underwear down  
I'll pay both of you

**February 24, 2026**

**MMV:** I need to make 500\$  
Ya the bike is 1000 I have 500 already

**HEDGPETH:** I'd send you \$100 if you could get [REDACTED name of MMV's minor brother] to show his dick with you lol

**MMV:** He won't  
What do you want me to send you while I'm in the bathroom

**HEDGPETH:** Flexing naked, some ab flexing stuff

**MMV:** [Sent three messages with content directly after.]

27. I reviewed media content stored in the iCloud attributed to Hedgpeth (Apple account 17273859465, which is the account the chats above were recovered from). I have found child pornography files of MMV on Hedgpeth's iCloud account that are consistent with what was produced through the conversation between Hedgpeth and MMV, a portion of which is above. Specifically, stored in that account I observed multiple child pornography videos that match the poses and content requested specifically by Hedgpeth from MMV. I was able to verify based on the dates of the media that they matched the dates of the iMessages exchanged with MMV. HSI positively identified MMV through law enforcement tools. I confirmed MMV matched the likeness of the minor male featured in the media content I observed on Hedgpeth's iCloud. A description of one of those videos observed includes the following:

- a. **MMV Video 1:** This video (ending in -12568629) was approximately 14 seconds long and dated October 6, 2025. As requested by Hedgpeth, MMV stands in front

of a mirror in a bathroom while being completely nude. MMV holds his cellphone in one hand while flexing in front of the mirror with his erect penis fully visible.

- b. Other videos sent by MMV showed his erect penis with semen on the tip of his penis. In some of these instances, I was able to find media artifacts of an Apple Cash transaction taking place directly after MMV sent the child pornography followed by MMV acknowledging the payment. Similar videos of MMV dated February 24, 2026, were located on Hedgpeth's iCloud account.

*Child Pornography on Hedgpeth's Snapchat Accounts*

28. Hedgpeth's Snapchat accounts contain more of the same. The accounts are associated with Hedgpeth in part because on Cash App, Hedgpeth would direct minors to add his accounts on Snapchat.

29. My review of Hedgpeth's Snapchat account records from approximately 2022-2024 shows what appears to be Hedgpeth communicating with multiple minors. Hedgpeth appears to pose as a minor to gain the trust of the minors, whom he then solicits for sexually explicit images and videos. Hedgpeth also distributed suspected child pornography<sup>7</sup> to minors to entice minors to send him child pornography. On multiple occasions, Hedgpeth was clearly told the minor victim's age, and he still attempted to entice and coerce the minors into engaging in sexually explicit conversations and producing and selling child pornography to him.

30. The following is an example of messages Hedgpeth sent on Snapchat to a 15-year-old female in 2023:

*"For 60 you better find a way to come through this phone to get my dick wet"*

*"I'm paying chicks \$5 to send me squirt videos"*

*"Not trying to turn anyone into a whore either . . ."*

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<sup>7</sup> HSI received the return of data on April 8, 2026, and are still working to identify ages of some of the images observed.

Conclusion and Requested Authority

31. Based on the information above, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that from at least on or about October 22, 2023 (which is the date of the oldest child pornography video of a minor identified on the Apple accounts to date), through on or about February 24, 2026 (most recent sexually explicit content received from MMV), Kevin Phillip Hedgpeth did violate 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2) (*Possession of Child Pornography*) and 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e) (*Production and Attempted Production of Child Pornography*). In consideration of the foregoing, I respectfully request that this Court approved charges and issue an arrest warrant for **KEVIN PHILLIP HEDGPETH**.

This affidavit has been reviewed by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Dean H. Secor and Elliott B. Daniels and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



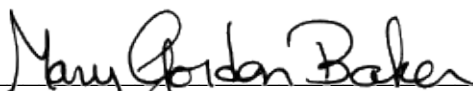
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Special Agent Deborah Hansell  
Homeland Security Investigations

SWORN TO ME VIA TELEPHONE OR  
OTHER RELIABLE ELECTRONIC MEANS  
AND SIGNED BY ME PURSUANT TO FED.  
R. CRIM. P. 4.1 AND 4(d) OR 41(d)(3), AS  
APPLICABLE

Subscribed and sworn before me on

April 13, 2026:



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The Honorable Mary Gordon Baker  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
Charleston, South Carolina