



## OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Mercer County Prosecutor's Internet Crimes Against Children Unit Arrests Hamilton Man for Distributing Child Sexual Abuse Material**

Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Theresa L. Hilton reported today that an investigation into online child exploitation has resulted in the arrest of a Hamilton man.

Gerald Keener, 18, is charged with one count of second-degree distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), one count of second-degree possession with the intent to distribute CSAM and one count of third-degree possession of CSAM. The prosecutor's office has filed a motion to detain Keener pending trial.

Detectives with the prosecutor's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit recently received information from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that an individual in Mercer County was distributing items that portrayed the sexual exploitation or abuse of a child. An investigation was initiated and Keener was identified as a subject.

On Wednesday, August 28, 2024, members of the prosecutor's ICAC Unit, with assistance from the Hamilton Police SWAT Team, executed a search warrant at Keener's Hamilton residence, where detectives seized multiple items of evidentiary value. Keener was taken into custody without incident. Following Keener's arrest, authorities learned that he is employed by the Hamilton YMCA as a counselor.

Second-degree crimes carry a sentence of five to 10 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$150,000. Third-degree crimes carry a sentence of three to five years in state prison and a fine of up to \$15,000.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact the prosecutor's Special Victims Unit at (609) 989-6568 or [mcposvu@mercercounty.org](mailto:mcposvu@mercercounty.org).

Acting Prosecutor Hilton urged anyone with information about suspected improper contact by unknown persons communicating with children via the internet or possible exploitation or sexual abuse of children to please contact the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit at (609) 989-6568 or the New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force tip line at (888) 648-6007.

*Despite having been charged, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.*

**###**



**Gerald Keener**