



# News Release

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OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release  
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## **Florence Man Arrested for Criminal Sexual Solicitation, Criminal Sexual Conduct and Disseminating Obscene Material to a Minor**

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the arrest of Jarius Stephen Ballard (DOB: 1987) of Florence, S.C. for three charges in connection with soliciting sex from a minor. The Florence Police Department, a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, made the arrest.

Investigators say Ballard exchanged messages with the victim through a Facebook messaging application, which included sending sexually explicit photos and discussing a meeting location. Additionally, Ballard is alleged to have previously had inappropriate physical contact with the victim.

Ballard was arrested on April 13, 2015. He is charged with one (1) count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§16-15-342), a felony offense punishable by up to 10 years; one (1) count of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, third degree (§16-3-655(c)), a felony offense punishable by up to 15 years; and one (1) count of Dissemination of Obscene Material to a Minor age 18 or younger (§16-15-345), a felony offense punishable by up to 10 years.

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

Attorney General Wilson stressed all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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