



CITY OF FORT WAYNE

SHARON TUCKER, MAYOR

Police Department • Paul Smith, Police Chief

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MEDIA FACT SHEET

Date: April 21st, 2026

Location: 1900 Chochtimar Trail

Time: Various times and dates

Details/Summary:

On April 16th, 2026 Officers were called to the 1900 block of Chochtimar Trail in reference to a domestic disturbance. When investigating that complaint, there was a child molesting allegation made against the defendant, Shawn Kessell. After that allegation was made, a detective was assigned to the case in the Crimes Against Persons Unit (CAPS). During the investigation, the detective discovered that Kessell had molested the victim when she was eleven (11) years old. The victim stated that Kessell had molested her on several occasions at more than one address in Fort Wayne. Kessell has been charged with two counts of level one Child Molesting and is currently at the Allen County Jail. The Fort Wayne Police Department thanks the Department of Child Services and the Dr. Bill Lewis Center for Children for their assistance in this investigation.

Suspect Arrested #1: Shawn Kessell, 40 years of age, Fort Wayne

Preliminary Charges:

Two counts of Child Molesting, a level one felony

ENHANCED QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL

1 E. Main St., Suite 108 • Fort Wayne, Indiana • 46802 • www.fwpd.org

phone: 260-427-1230 • fax: 260-427-1374

An Equal Opportunity Employer