

Massachusetts man sentenced for creating, distributing child sexual abuse material (CSAM)

"BOSTON – A Chicopee man was sentenced yesterday in federal court in Springfield for creating and distributing child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

Michael Geoffroy, 36, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Mark G. Mastroianni to 20 years in prison and 10 years of supervised release. On Feb. 16, 2023, Geoffroy pleaded guilty to three counts of sexual exploitation of a child, three counts of distribution of child pornography and one count possession of child pornography.

"There is no higher priority in this office than protecting vulnerable children. As this case demonstrates, we will continue to devote significant resources to holding accountable in individual who engages in the sexual exploitation of children," said Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy.

"Michael Geoffroy sexually abused a little girl and documented it for his own twisted gratification. His trove of horrific images of that child and others represents an unimaginable level of pain and trauma inflicted on young victims," said Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division. "Locking this sexual predator up doesn't undo that damage, not by a long shot. But it does keep him from hurting anyone else and for that we are thankful."

In December 2020, Geoffroy used a minor to create two videos and two images of CSAM. Geoffroy then distributed the videos

and images in a chat group that same day. Geoffroy was arrested the following day and, during a search of his cellphone, was found in possession of more than 100 videos and images that depicting CSAM.

Acting U.S. Attorney Levy and FBI SAC Cohen made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Chicopee Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Neil L. Desroches of the Springfield Branch Unit prosecuted the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse, launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/psc>."-Massachusetts Department of Justice.

Southcoast Health named to Newsweek's America's Greatest Workplaces for Diversity 2024

"FALL RIVER, NEW BEDFORD and WAREHAM, Mass. – Southcoast Health officials announced today that the not-for-profit community health system earned significant recognition from Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group as one of America's Greatest Workplaces for Diversity 2024.

“This award exemplifies Southcoast Health’s dedication and commitment to embracing and delivering a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all,” said David O. McCready, President and Chief Executive Officer for Southcoast Health. “I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our amazing team of providers, nurses and staff who continuously work to strengthen our respectful, accepting and collaborative culture, especially those serving on our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Council.”

The companies recognized for this achievement were based on a comprehensive survey of over 220,000 individuals including representation at over 1.5 million U.S.-based companies. The winning list spans over 78 industries, and Southcoast Health is one of only 66 companies in Massachusetts to earn this award.

“Our mission at Southcoast Health is to recognize, affirm and celebrate the rich diversity of our colleagues and our community,” said Melanie Cluley, Director of Organizational Culture and Engagement and Chair of the DE&I Council at Southcoast Health. “It is essential to our role as the leading provider of healthcare in the South Coast region to ensure that everyone we serve, including our patients, staff and community members, are treated with kindness and respect.”



Southcoast Health photo.

Southcoast Health has an active Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council (DE&I), with Senior Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer, Lauren De Simon Johnson, as the Executive Sponsor since 2019. The DE&I Council and five strong Employee Resource Groups focus on broadening inclusion and implementing initiatives to serve the entire community. Recently, the DE&I Council played an instrumental role in the guidance and implementation of Southcoast Health's Health Equity efforts, including helping to lead the LGBTQIA+ Welcoming & Knowledgeable initiative. Their goal is to educate and promote a greater understanding of all members of the workforce and community members.

"With our collaborative approach, we are making great strides in meeting the needs of our patients while we work together to envision and create a more just future for our community," said Katelyn Ferreira, Health Equity Program Manager at Southcoast Health. "I am honored to work alongside our community partners to strengthen our health equity initiatives. These programs help us to address social drivers of health by filling gaps in areas like transportation and food access."

Southcoast Health formed the system-wide Health Equity Committee (HEC) in 2022. Co-chaired by Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Dani Hackner and Deputy Chief Medical Officer at Southcoast Health Network Dr. Enitza George, the HEC includes leaders across the system including Southcoast Hospitals Group, Southcoast Physicians Group, and Southcoast Health Network as well as community members. This group works with the Hospital Quality and Equity Steering Committee, the Diversity Equity & Inclusion Council, Community Health and Wellness, the Patient Family Advisory Council, and many other stakeholders throughout the health system and beyond our walls.

"Diversity is a widely discussed topic – and it remains a crucial factor as people look for an employer or a business

partner,” said Nancy Cooper, Global Editor in Chief at Newsweek. “Newsweek and market-data research firm Plant-A Insights are proud to introduce “America’s Greatest Workplaces for Diversity 2024,” highlighting companies that are committed to offering diverse and inclusive work environments.”

For the past five years, Southcoast Health has adopted a dedicated focus on inclusion and representation of our communities lived experiences throughout our workforce. This includes supporting our caregivers, veterans, and individuals with disabilities to ensure all voices are represented and heard. Since October 2020, Southcoast Health has almost doubled the number of its racially diverse leaders and has increased the amount of racially diverse new hires by more than five percent.

To learn more about careers at Southcoast Health and our diversity, equity and inclusion programming, please visit www.southcoast.org/careers/.

About Southcoast Health

Founded in 1996, Southcoast Health serves communities across *southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island as the largest provider of primary and specialty care in the region. The not-for-profit, charitable system includes three acute care hospitals – Charlton Memorial in Fall River, St. Luke’s in New Bedford (a Level II Trauma Center), and Tobey in Wareham, Massachusetts with a physician network of more than 675 providers.*

The system has established more than 55 service locations across the South Coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, including six urgent care locations, a Visiting Nurse Association, the Southcoast Health Cancer Center, the region’s only Level II Adult Trauma Center and numerous ancillary facilities.

Southcoast Health has been recognized consecutively for six years in a row as a Newsweek's World's Best Hospital from 2019-2024 and named a Maternity Care Access Hospital for 2023-2024 by U.S. News & World Report. The organization was recognized as the best place to work for the sixth consecutive year by Southcoast Media Group's community choice awards.

With upward of 7,500 employees, Southcoast Health is the largest employer in southeastern Massachusetts, and one of the largest employers in the Commonwealth, according to the Boston Business Journal. More information is available online at www.southcoast.org."

New Bedford Police respond to volatile situation involving a man with a knife on Monday

"Police were called to a north-end residence to serve a commitment order on an emotionally disturbed person. Officers were advised that the male had expressed both suicidal and homicidal ideation. The male was also known to the officers to have been violent in the past.

Upon arrival, the male was located seated in a parked vehicle. He was holding a kitchen knife which he gestured towards the police.

At this time, rather than proceeding forward and engaging a male who was only an immediate threat to himself, the officers stepped back and encouraged communication. Family members spoke to the male in an effort to calm him down, as did police officers. Eventually, the male surrendered his weapon, exited

the vehicle, and accompanied the police peacefully to the hospital.

The officers on the scene were David Figueiredo, William Suave, Marc Felix, and Lt. Arthur Hegarty.

“I’m proud of the officers’ approach to this call and their commitment to de-escalation during an extremely volatile situation. In the past, police were conditioned to simply charge recklessly forward to resolve a perceived threat. Today, officers are taking the time to consider all their options. That’s exactly what happened here, and the result couldn’t have been better.” -Chief Paul Oliveira.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing a mental health emergency, you can call or text the Behavioral Health Line at 988, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Also, the Crisis Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling 508-996-3154. The New Bedford Police Department has a clinician response during certain hours by calling 911.

Guatemalan man living in Massachusetts deported 4 times for illegal entry, OUIs, sentenced

“BOSTON – A Guatemalan man was sentenced on March 1, 2024 in federal court in Boston for unlawfully reentering the United States after deportation.

Romeo Waldemar Gabriel Lopez, 32, was sentenced by U.S.

District Court Judge Myong J. Joun to time served (approximately six months in prison) and one year of supervised release. In December 2023, Gabriel Lopez pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful reentry of a deported alien.

Gabriel Lopez was first deported in April 2016 following a conviction for operating under the influence (OUI). His second deportation was in October 2016, after he was apprehended illegally crossing the border in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Gabriel Lopez was later apprehended in Texas after illegally crossing the border again in December 2016. He was subsequently deported for a third time in April 2017. In February 2020, Gabriel Lopez was found to have unlawfully reentered the United States again when he was arrested and charged with a second OUI. He was removed from the United States again in March 2020. Sometime after his March 2020 removal, Gabriel Lopez unlawfully reentered the United States and was arrested on charges of assault and battery, which were later dismissed.

In July 2022, he pleaded guilty to the second, pending OUI charge and was sentenced to probation. After being incarcerated for violating the conditions of his probation in August 2023, Gabriel Lopez was transferred into the custody of immigration authorities in September 2023.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy and Todd M. Lyons, Field Office Director, Boston, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. Reynolds III of the Major Crimes Unit prosecuted the case."- Massachusetts Department of Justice.

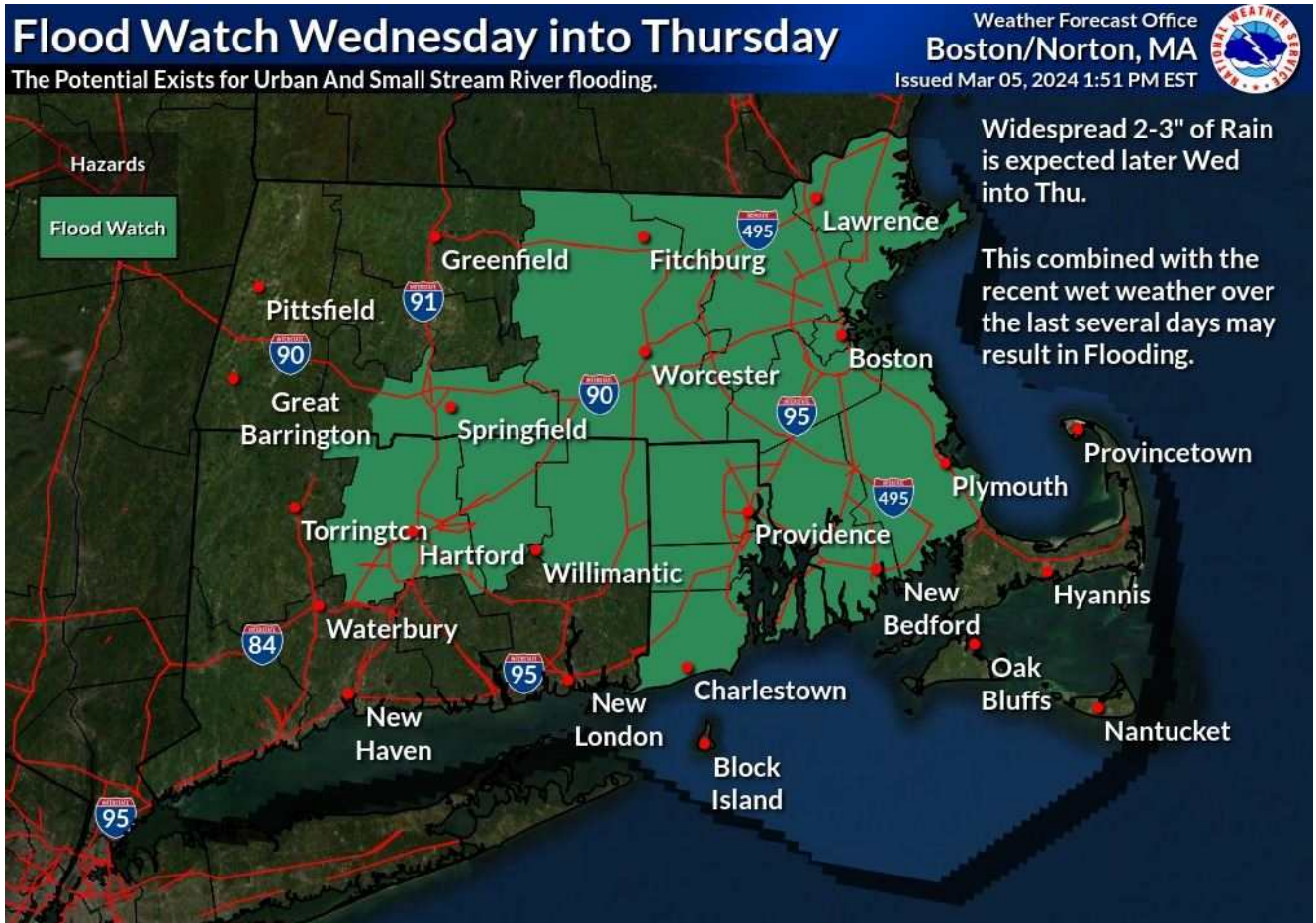
U.S. National Weather Service Boston issues flood watch for the City of New Bedford, South Coast

“[Flood Watch Expanded]

A Flood Watch has been issued for City of New Bedford for most of the day tomorrow and well into Thursday. Residents should prepare for excessive rain in a short period of time.

A widespread 2-3" of rain is expected later Wednesday into Thursday. This coupled with the wet weather of the past few days will bring the potential for Urban/Small Stream & River Flooding.

Flood Watch has been expanded into central/northeast MA & northern CT.”-US National Weather Service Boston.



US National Weather Service Boston photo.

Massachusetts State Police seize MAC-11 machine gun, pistol, PCP, cocaine and arrest three

“A joint operation on Friday March 1, 2024, by the Massachusetts State Police and Springfield Police Firearms Investigation Unit (FIU) resulted in the arrests of three Springfield residents and the seizure of a large amount of cocaine, as well as Phencyclidine (PCP), a MAC-11 machine gun, and an additional semi-automatic handgun.

Over the past several months, the State Police Commonwealth Interstate Narcotics Reduction Enforcement Team's West Unit (CINRET-West) investigated the distribution of cocaine out of a first floor apartment at 953 Liberty St., Springfield. In the early morning hours of Friday March 1, 2024, CINRET-West, assisted by Springfield FIU, executed a Springfield District Court "knock and announce" search warrant for that location.

Troopers and Officers searched the residence and located approximately 150 grams of suspected cocaine; Phencyclidine, commonly referred to as "PCP"; a loaded semi-automatic handgun; and a MAC-11 subcompact machine gun with ammunition and two large 32 round high-capacity magazines. The MAC-11's high cyclic rate is able to empty the entire 32-round magazine in about two seconds with a rate of fire of 1,200 rounds per minute.

All three residents, 35-year-old CARLOS COLLAZO, 45-year-old LUIS CLEMENTE, and 38-year-old JOSELYN COLLAZO were placed under arrest and booked at the Springfield Police Department.

CARLOS COLLAZO was charged with the following offenses:

- Unlawful possession of a firearm;
- Possession of a machine gun;
- Possession of large capacity magazine (two counts);
- Unlawful possession of ammunition;
- Possession of a firearm with three or more prior violent offenses (two counts);
- Possession of a firearm in commission of a felony (two counts);
- Violation of a 209a order prohibiting possession of firearms/ammunition; and
- Trafficking in cocaine, 100-200 grams.

LUIS CLEMENTE and JOSELYN COLLAZO were each charged with the following offenses:

- Possession with intent to distribute a Class B substance

(PCP); and

- Possession with intent to distribute a Class B substance (cocaine)."-Massachusetts State Police.
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New Bedford Police investigating "shots fired" on Tinkham Street

"Last night at around midnight, north-end units responded to a call for shots fired in the area of Tinkham St. and Eric's Way.

Shortly thereafter, an adult male victim presented at St. Luke's hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Detectives are following up on the case, which remains very active at this time."-City of New Bedford Police Department.

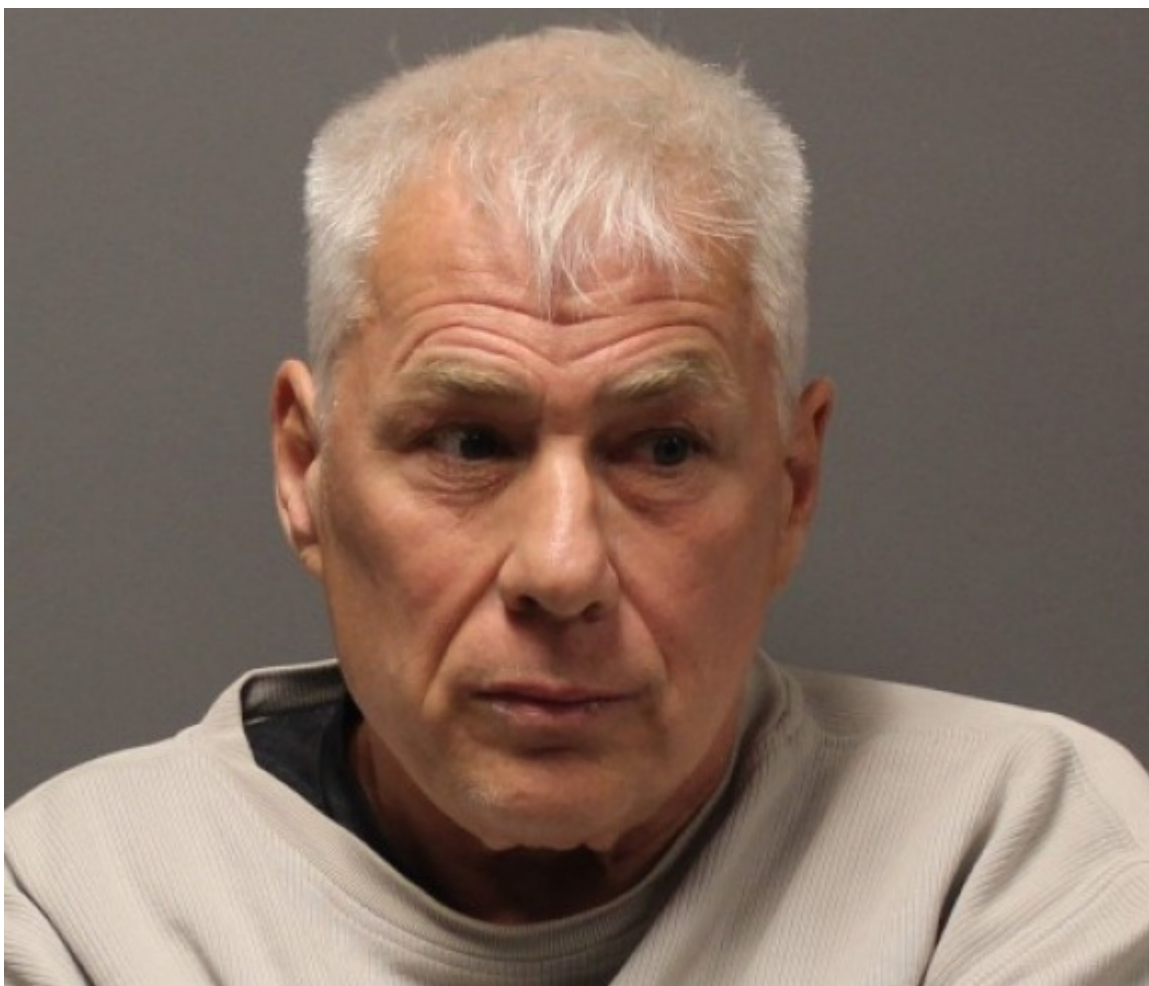
Massachusetts Police charge man after allegedly trapping two juvenile girls in bathroom

"HUDSON –Chief Richard DiPersio reports that the Hudson Police Department arrested and charged a Stow man with kidnapping.

MICHAEL GADOMSKI, AGE 61, of STOW, was arrested and charged with:

- Kidnapping of Child
- Assault
- Disorderly Conduct

On Saturday, March 2, at approximately 12:30 p.m., Hudson Police responded to a church on Marlboro Street for an incident involving an adult male and two juvenile females.



Hudson Massachusetts Police Department photo.

Through an initial investigation, officers learned that an adult male, identified as GADOMSKI, followed two juveniles into the bathroom and prevented them from leaving.

Police determined that GADOMSKI has engaged in similar unwanted activity involving the same juveniles in the past. GADOMSKI was taken into custody without incident.

The juveniles were not harmed.

"I applaud these individuals for reporting this incident and for their bravery during this process," said Chief DiPersio. "I would also like to commend our officers for their professionalism in helping to keep our community safe."

GADOMSKI is scheduled to be arraigned in Marlborough District Court on Monday. These are allegations. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty."-Hudson Massachusetts Police Department.

Marion Police Officers take advantage of weather to join neighborhood basketball game

"We finally had some beautiful weather this afternoon [Sunday]!"

While out on patrol Officers Norman and Robbins joined in a neighborhood basketball game. As you can see, Officer Norman had a few good moves!

Thanks for the pics, Officer Robbins."-Marion Police Department.



Marion Police Department photo.



Massachusetts State Police pull military ordnance out of Boston's Charles River

"On Friday March 1, 2024 at approximately 6:30 PM two members of the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad responded to Kendrick Street in Needham for a report of military ordnance pulled out of the Charles River by a person who was magnet fishing.

Upon arriving on scene, Needham Police had the area secured with the object – approximately 12" long and 4" in diameter – sitting on the sidewalk (that area of Kendrick Street is bridge over the Charles River).

After conducting a visual inspection of the object, MSP Bomb Squad Sgt. Paul Horgan and Trooper Scott Irish determined that it was a military projectile in a severely deteriorated state and in need of disposal. Needham Police and Firefighters identified a suitable disposal site. The projectile was secured and transported to the disposal site, where the Bomb Squad members safely countercharged and disposed of it without incident.

The State Police Bomb Squad, part of the Department's Fire and Explosives Investigation Unit, responds to hundreds of calls each year to examine suspicious or hazardous items – and render them safe when necessary."-Massachusetts State Police.