



Office of the Chief • Chief John R. Batiste

\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*

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**Contact:** Chris Loftis, Director of Public Affairs  
**Phone:** 360-485-3983  
**Email:** [chris.loftis@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:chris.loftis@wsp.wa.gov)

### WSP Detectives Arrest Port Orchard Man Following Child Exploitation Investigation

**Tacoma, Wash.** – The Washington State Patrol (WSP) Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF) has successfully apprehended a Port Orchard man following an undercover child exploitation and child sex trafficking investigation.

In May of 2026, **Michael A. Rees, 34**, engaged in online communications with undercover MECTF detectives. During the conversations, Rees allegedly expressed a desire to meet with a mother and her juvenile daughter for the purpose of impregnating the juvenile. In exchange, he was going to pay the mother a total of \$1,000.

On June 25, 2026, Rees arranged to meet who he believed to be the mother and her daughter at a Tacoma hotel to have sex with the child. As Rees entered the hotel, he was arrested by MECTF detectives and Special Agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

“This case demonstrates the troubling necessity for our undercover efforts and highlights some of the most destructive environments we encounter in law enforcement,” said WSP Chief John R. Batiste. “I am grateful for the men and women of this unit, along with our partner agencies, whose personal courage, professional expertise, and unwavering determination help protect the children of our state in an often-dangerous world.”

Following his arrest, Michael Rees was booked into Pierce County Jail on the following charges:

- **RCW 9A.44.076 – Rape of a Child in the Second Degree – Attempt**
- **RCW 9.68A.100 – Commercial Sex Abuse of a Minor – Attempt**
- **RCW 9.68A.090 – Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes**

Bail has been set at \$250,000.

Anyone who suspects they have been impacted by Michael Rees or possesses information related to this case is encouraged to contact MECTF at (360) 704-2397 or via email at [MECTF@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:MECTF@wsp.wa.gov).

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