



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ILLINOIS STATE POLICE LEADS

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING OPERATION

EFFINGHAM – The Illinois State Police (ISP) arrested five individuals during an anti-human trafficking operation in the Effingham area. On January 25, 2024, the ISP Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Trafficking Enforcement Bureau conducted an operation focused on identifying individuals seeking to engage in commercial sex acts.

As a result of the operation, the following individuals were arrested and charged.

- Daniel A. Bennett (38) – Bethany, IL – Indecent Solicitation of a Child, Traveling to Meet a Child, Solicitation to Meet a Child
- Justin P. Covey (32) – Irvine, KY – Solicitation of a Sexual Act
- Scott A. Grote (38) – Centralia, IL – Solicitation of a Sexual Act
- David L. Hackett (71) – Tuscola, IL – Solicitation of a Sexual Act
- Thad D. White (50) – Cowden, IL – Solicitation of a Sexual Act

This operation was part of a multifaceted approach by ISP aimed at stopping human trafficking in Illinois. Participating in the operation with ISP were the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, Central Illinois Enforcement Group, Effingham Police Department, Christian County Sheriff's Department, and Homeland Security Investigations. The Effingham County States Attorney's Office also provided support for the operation.

If you suspect human trafficking, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text *233733. For more information visit www.humantraffickinghotline.org. You can also email ISP.Crime.Tips@illinois.gov.



Daniel Bennett (M/38) Justin Covey (M/32) Scott Grote (M/38) David Hackett (M/71) Thad White (M/50)

All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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