



BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Jamal A. Simington - Chief of Police
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For Immediate Release: June 26, 2024

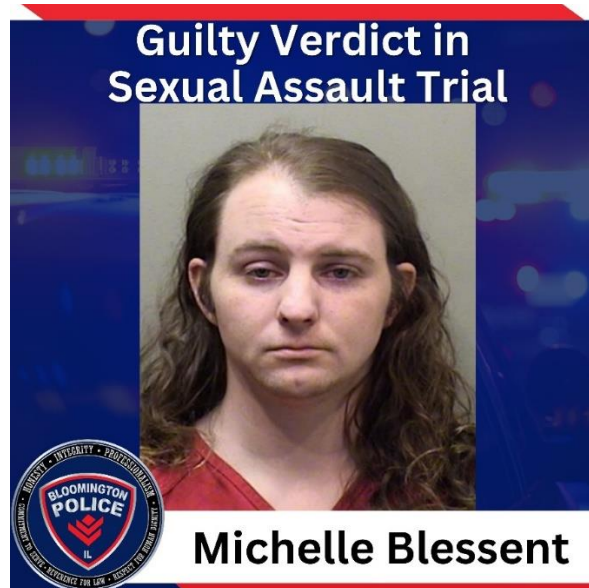
Guilty Verdict in Sexual Assault Trial

Bloomington, IL- On Monday, 6/24/24, Michelle Blessent pleaded guilty to three counts resulting from 2023 sexual assault investigations, which involved two victims under the age of 13.

- Count 1 - Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Victim Under 13
- Count 2 - Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Victim Under 13
- Count 3 - Grooming

Blessent was sentenced to 42 years for Count 1, 42 years for Count 2, and three years for Count 3. The sentencing runs consecutively. Under the state's truth-in-sentencing law, 85 percent of Counts 1 and 2 must be served. Blessent will not be eligible for parole until 2095.

"The men and women of the Bloomington Police Department strive to hold violent offenders accountable through diligent and effective investigations," stated Chief Jamal Simington. "The unfortunate victims in these cases deserve the best possible outcomes, and I pray the deliverance of justice helps with the healing process."



Media Contact:

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New Charges in Sexual Assault Investigation

Bloomington, IL - On Wednesday, 11/15/23, Michelle Blessent was indicted on three new counts. Blessent has been in custody at the McLean County Detention Facility since the arrest on 4/12/23, related to the charges involving the first victim in this investigation. On 11/16/23, Blessent was served with the new warrant related to the latest indictment.

Blessent's new charges are:

- Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Victim Under 13
- Grooming
- Exploitation of a Child Less Than 17

Blessent's original charges for the first victim are:

- Five counts of Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Victim Under 13

Anyone with information on these incidents should contact Detective C. Maas at 309-434-2534 or cmaas@cityblm.org.

Blessent remains in custody at the McLean County Detention Facility. All suspects are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in the court of law.

Indicted for Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault

Bloomington, IL - On Wednesday, 04/12/23, after a lengthy investigation by the Bloomington Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division (CID), Michelle Blessent, was indicted on five counts of Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault.

After being indicted, a \$1,000,000.00 bond warrant was issued for Blessent.

Members of the Bloomington Police Department's Street Crimes Unit (SCU), located and arrested Blessent without incident.

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ARRESTED: Michelle Blessent 33 years old, Bloomington IL.

The circumstances behind this incident are still pending investigation by the Bloomington Police Department. Anyone with information should contact Bloomington Police Detective C. Maas at 309-434-2534 or cmaas@cityblm.org.

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If you wish to submit a tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963, you can also send anonymous tips via your smartphone by texting the number 847411 and the word "BPD TIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information, or email CIAU@cityblm.org.

The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

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