

STATE OF INDIANA )  
 ) SS:  
COUNTY OF ELKHART )

IN THE ELKHART SUPERIOR COURT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CAUSE NO. 20D03-2602-MC-715

STATE OF INDIANA )  
 )  
Donald Shafer )  
DOB: 7/30/1971 )

## ORDER OF THE COURT

The undersigned, being the Honorable Magistrate of the Elkhart Superior Court \_\_\_\_\_, finds that the Affidavit set forth herewith establishes probable cause to believe that on or about the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026, the above-named individual committed the offense(s) of:

- ① Sexual Misconduct w/a Minor F4: Other Sexual Conduct. ② Pass. Child Sex Abuse Material  
② Child Solicitation via Computer Network F4

and that the Prosecuting Attorney requires more time to evaluate the case and determine whether a charge should be filed; and, accordingly, after review of the Probable Cause Affidavit, the Court ORDERS the above-named individual:

\_\_\_\_\_ released on personal recognizance (ROR) subject to the conditions below, and he/she must appear at an Initial Hearing on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, at \_\_\_\_\_ .m., in \_\_\_\_\_ Court.

\_\_\_\_\_ released upon posting a monetary bond in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_, subject to the conditions below, and he/she must appear at an Initial Hearing on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, at \_\_\_\_\_ .m., in \_\_\_\_\_ Court. If bond is not posted, then he/she must appear at an Initial Hearing on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., at the Elkhart County Correctional Complex (jail) courtroom.

X held without bond by the Sheriff of Elkhart County, Indiana, pursuant to I.C. 35-33-8-3.4 and/or I.C. 35-33-8-6.5. Bond to be set by the judicial officer following a hearing held in open court. Said hearing will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. (\*If a Tuesday, hearing will be held at the Elkhart County Correctional Complex (jail) courtroom; if a Thursday, hearing will be held in courtroom 1B at the courthouse, 1905 Reliance Road, Goshen, IN. \*) IRAS is requested by court services.

Formal charges to be filed in the Elkhart Superior Court 3.

If you are released from custody on bond or on your own recognizance, the following conditions apply while your case is pending:

1. You shall notify the Court in which your charges are filed within 48 hours of any change of address, telephone number, or employment.
2. You shall be enrolled in the telephonic notification service by providing a valid contact number at your Initial Hearing.
3. You shall appear at all scheduled court hearings.
4. You shall maintain contact and communication at all times with your attorney, if you have one.
5. You shall not have any new arrest(s) or commit any new criminal offense(s).
6. ADDITIONAL TERMS: Boxes checked apply to you:

☐ Drug Screening: You are subject to drug screening as directed by the Court. YOU SHALL NOT USE, CONSUME, OR POSSESS ANY NON-PRESCRIBED OR ILLEGAL DRUGS.

☐ No Contact: You shall not initiate contact of any kind, directly or indirectly, including personal contact or contact via electronic devices or social media, with: \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ No Trespassing: You shall not enter onto the property of \_\_\_\_\_, located at: \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

\*If you violate any condition of your release, you may be arrested or the conditions of your release may be modified by the Court.\*

A fifteen (15) day probation / community corrections hold is requested. The individual is on probation / community corrections in case number: \_\_\_\_\_ . Judicial officer hereby \_\_\_\_\_ approves \_\_\_\_\_ denies hold.

Other considerations for bond amount: \_\_\_\_\_

The Clerk of this Court shall forward a copy of this Order to the Elkhart County Sheriff, Elkhart County, Indiana, or other law enforcement agency, who shall be charged with the execution of this Order.

SO ORDERED, THIS 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge/Magistrate, Elkhart Circuit/Superior Court

I.C. § 35-42-4-9 (a)(1)  
I.C. § 35-42-4-6 (c)(1)  
35-42-4-4 (d)(1)

I, the undersigned, have read and/or had explained to me, the above conditions of my release and by my signature do acknowledge my understanding of the conditions specified above. I also acknowledge that I have received a copy of this Order.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

State of Indiana  
County of Elkhart

)  
) SS:

IN THE Elkhart Magistrate

STATE OF INDIANA  
VS.

Donald Christopher Shafer  
53601 Hyde Park Dr  
Bristol, IN 46507

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)  
)

CAUSE NUMBER

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF  
WARRANTLESS ARREST

**Name of Person Arrested:** Donald Christopher Shafer  
**Date and Place of Birth:** Friday, July 30, 1971 United States  
**Needs Translation:** No  
**Location of Arrest:** Shanklin Park (411 W Plymouth Ave)  
**Date and Time of Arrest:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 03:06  
**Most Serious Crime:** SEX CRIME- SEXUAL MISCONDUCT WITH MINOR/FONDLING  
**Class of Crime:** Level 4 Felony  
**Statute Number:** 35-42-4-9 [11D]  
**Second Charge:** SEX CRIME- CHILD SEDUCTION  
**Class of Crime 2:** Level 5 Felony  
**Statute Number 2:** 35-42-4-7  
**Third Charge:** SEX CRIME- CHILD EXPLOITATION  
**Class of Crime 3:** Level 5 Felony  
**Statute Number 3:** 35-42-4-4(b)  
**Fourth Charge:** SEX CRIME- CHILD SOLICITATION  
**Class of Crime 4:** Level 5 Felony  
**Statute Number 4:** 35-42-4-6

Comes now, Derek Weldy, after being duly sworn upon his/her oath, deposes and says that he/she is a law enforcement officer for the Goshen Police Department, City of Goshen, Elkhart County, Indiana, and that the above named was arrested because:

I was conducting routine patrol within the City Parks of Goshen, Indiana at approximately 0306hrs, which is past the normal hours of operation set by the City Ordinance Department (dusk to dawn).

While traveling northbound through the parking lot of Shanklin Park, 411 W Plymouth Ave, nearing the large pavilion hall, I observed a light-colored Chevrolet passenger car parked perpendicular to the handicap parking stall near the

basketball court. I observed the vehicle's lights were not illuminated and the windows were fogged. I utilized my patrol vehicle's spotlight to illuminate the vehicle by placing the beam of light into the rear window. While doing this action I observed, what appeared to be a head spring upward on the right side of the vehicle (behind the front passenger seat). I observed this Chevrolet was bearing the Indiana license plate # DIS577, which was affixed to the rear of the vehicle.

I exited my patrol vehicle and began to approach the Chevrolet which, I observed an older male later identified as Donald Shafer DOB: 07/30/1971 in the back row seats directly behind the driver seat and a younger juvenile male later identified as V1(15 yr old male) who was sitting directly behind the front passenger seat. I asked for identification from both male occupants and Donald advised his wallet is in the front portion of the vehicle. Donald asked if he could get out of the rear portion of the vehicle to obtain his identification. Donald exited the vehicle and positioned his body in such a way as if he was attempting to hide something from me. I observed Donald was wearing a zip-up sweatshirt and thin gym style shorts. I observed that Donald had a protruding bulge from the groin area, which I believed to appear as an erection. I observed the V1 was exiting the rear passenger seat and approaching the rear bumper of the vehicle while Donald was attempting to locate his identification.

I approached V1 and asked for his name. V1 was asked what his date of birth was and he began to provide it. V1's volume used to provide his date of birth was softly provided which was not consistent with the volume used on his name. V1's body positioning was slouched and timid as if he was scared. After Donald provided his identification, I began to confirm the information on this document was still true and accurate. Donald advised he still lives on Hyde Park Dr in Bristol, Indiana. Donald provided his phone number and when asked about his place of employment he advised "Elkhart", after some hesitation and some time had passed, he stated he works for Elkhart Schools.

I later advised Donald of his Miranda Rights by reading them from a preprinted Miranda Advisement Card, which he nodded his head up and down alluding to he understood his rights.

Donald was asked what they were doing and he stated they were just talking in the backseats of the vehicle. Donald was asked what they were talking about and he stated just issues V1 was having at school. Donald was asked who V1 was and he stated he doesn't know his name. Donald advised he met him through a school function multiple times. Donald was asked what school function and he stated basketball. I clarified what school this function occurred at due to Donald previously mentioning he is a teacher at Elkhart Schools. I asked Donald what school he teaches at and he stated Elkhart Middle School and later clarified Westside Middle School. I asked Donald how they ended up here today and he stated they met at the library and later drove over here.

I informed Donald that I would be transporting him to the Goshen Police Department to conduct a further investigation as well as with to get out of the elements.

I asked Donald if he had any questions so far and he did not ask anything at this time. I asked Donald if he would like to tell me anything and he began to say "Um" multiple times. I observed Donald had maintained eye contact throughout our conversation until this moment. Donald began to look down toward the ground while repeating the word "um." Donald paused and slightly grinned then looked back at the ground.

Donald later advised this interaction was actually a "Grindr" hookup. Donald was asked to clarify what "Grindr" hookups are, and he stated gay sex. I know "Grindr" to be a web-based application used on electronic devices such as smart phones, and/or computers/laptops. "Grindr" is a social media networking and dating application primarily for gay, bisexual, trans, and queer (LGBTQ+) individuals. I was informed by Donald that "Grindr" is an application that individuals create their own accounts with biographical identifiers and use this application to meet and communicate with others.

I asked Donald if that was what was happening in the car and he stated yes. I asked Donald what was being performed at that time and he stated "oral." I asked if it was him or V1 and he stated "me." I asked Donald to clarify what he meant and he stated he was performing oral on V1.

A SANE was completed at St Joseph Regional Medical Center at approximately 05:22 AM on 02/11/2025.

On 02/11/2026 at approximately 15:00, a forensic interview was completed for V1 at CAPS, Child and Family Advocacy Center:

- V1 disclosed meeting Donald on the social dating application Grindr at approximately 1:00AM on 02/11/2026.
- V1 disclosed communication with Donald on Grindr.
- V1 disclosed Donald requested nude images of V1 and Donald sent nude images of Donald's anus to V1.
- V1 disclosed sending nude images to Donald.

- V1 disclosed at approximately 2:00AM Donald met V1 at the Goshen Public Library.
- V1 disclosed Donald asked where a safe location would be to go and do sexual things.
- V1 advised he got into the vehicle with Donald, and they drove to Shanklin park.
- V1 advised he began to feel unsafe and chose Shanklin Park knowing that Law Enforcement actively patrols the area and would find them to get him out of the situation.
- V1 disclosed Donald told him to get into the backseat, Donald began to touch V1 with his hands and began to kiss the body and chest of V1.
- V1 disclosed Donald took down the pants of V1 and began to perform oral on V1's penis.
- V1 disclosed pain to his scrotum while Donald was performing oral on V1.
- V1 disclosed Donald became aware the police were outside the vehicle and told V1 to put his clothes on.
- V1 disclosed Donald told him to tell police they were both adults and then asked if V1 was 18.
- V1 disclosed being afraid to the point of shaking because of Donald's age and size and further being afraid to say no.

I affirm under the penalty of perjury that the above and foregoing facts are true and correct, are within the personal knowledge of the undersigned and occurred within Elkhart County, Indiana.

**In Custody**

SIGNATURE: /s/ Derek Weldy

OFFICER: Derek Weldy

GOSHEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

CASE #: 26GOS00530

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2026

COURT FINDS PROBABLE CAUSE EXISTS FOR ARREST OF DEFENDANT

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE'S SIGNATURE