

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Middle District of Tennessee

United States of America )

v. )

TAD ERIC CUMMINS )

Case No. 17-MJ-2038

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of March 17, 2017 - April 20, 2017 in the county of Maury in the Middle District of Tennessee, the defendant(s) violated:

Table with 2 columns: Code Section, Offense Description. Row 1: Title 18, United States Code, Section 2423(a); knowingly transport an individual who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) in interstate commerce, identified here as victim, with the intent that the individual engage in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

SEE ATTACHED STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Continued on the attached sheet.

Jonathan Haridson
Complainant's signature

FBI TFO Jonathan Haridson
Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 04/20/2017

Jeffery Frensley
Judge's signature

City and state: NASHVILLE, TN

Jeffery Frensley, United States Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

## STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

1. I, Jonathan R. Hardison, am employed as a detective with the Columbia, Tennessee Police Department and have been so employed for approximately seven years. Currently, I serve as a Task Force Officer with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) where I investigate various criminal law violations in Title 18 and Title 21 of the United States Code. This affidavit is submitted in support of a criminal complaint for the arrest of Tad E. Cummins for the transportation of a minor with the intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2423(a).
2. The information contained in this affidavit is based on my experience and training, my participation in investigation, and information received from other law enforcement officers and witnesses. Because this affidavit is being submitted for a limited purpose, I have set forth only those facts necessary to establish probable cause for the offense. Except where otherwise indicated, all statements referred to herein are set forth in substance and in part, rather than verbatim and in full.
3. On January 30, 2017 Detective Marcus Albright with the Maury County Sherriff Department received a phone call from School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to the Culleoka Unit School in Culleoka, Tennessee. The SRO advised the detective of a recent incident that reportedly occurred between a teacher and student. The substance of the information provided to the detective was that a student claimed to have witnessed another student kissing a teacher.
4. In response, detectives went to Culleoka Unit School to meet with the SRO. The SRO advised that on January 23, 2017, a twelve-year old student walked into the classroom of teacher Tad E. Cummins after school and observed Cummins, who is fifty (50) years of age, engaged in a kiss with a student identified as VICTIM, who is fifteen (15) years of age.
5. Detectives and the SRO subsequently spoke with the student. The student related that he /she saw VICTIM and Cummins kissing. The student described the kiss as a romantic peck rather than a father-daughter type kiss. The student stated that he / she and another student went to Cummins' classroom after school and confronted him about his relationship with VICTIM. The student related that Cummins rambled on and on about how much he loved his wife, but indicated that VICTIM sometimes went to church with him and his wife and that VICTIM had a troubled past.
6. With the assistance of VICTIM's father, detectives were able to view the call history on VICTIM's phone. That history showed brief contact between VICTIM and Cummins' known phone number on January 31, 2017.

7. On January 31, 2017, detectives spoke with VICTIM, who advised that on January 23, 2017, she had a verbal exchange with another teacher about going to the bathroom. Upset over the incident, she went to Cummins' classroom. VICTIM indicated that Cummins must have been consoling her when the student walked in. VICTIM advised that Cummins possibly held both of her hands around the wrist area and may have been close to her face at the time, telling her she needed to calm down. VICTIM asserted that she and Cummins had never kissed.
8. On February 1, 2017, detectives conducted a non-custodial interview of Cummins at the MCSD. In that interview, Cummins described his relationship with VICTIM as that of a father figure at school. He denied ever kissing VICTIM.
9. A detective was notified by a school official that on February 3, 2017, VICTIM and Cummins may have been alone together in his classroom for a period of time, even though Cummins had been told to stay away from VICTIM during an investigation by the school district. The SRO reviewed the school surveillance system and confirmed that Cummins and VICTIM were in fact in his classroom for more than 30 minutes on that date. Other students were also present. As a result of the contact, Cummins was suspended by the school district on February 6, 2017.
10. Due to Cummins' suspension, the school district retrieved its school issued laptop and iPad from Cummins. Cummins reportedly became upset over the iPad device, advising that he had personal information on the device, including information about purchases he had made, and was reluctant to give up the device. The iPad was turned over to detectives.
11. Subsequent investigation revealed that on March 13, 2017, at approximately 7:30 a.m., VICTIM was picked up from her residence in Culleoka, Tennessee, by a friend and dropped off at a Shoney's restaurant located at 2225 Carmack Boulevard in Columbia at approximately 8:00 a.m. Video surveillance obtained by investigators from VICTIM's residence confirmed her departure that morning, and the friend who dropped her off at Shoney's also confirmed dropping her at the restaurant. Additionally, an employee at Shoney's also reported seeing VICTIM there that morning.
12. On that same morning, Cummins borrowed his wife's 2015 Nissan Rogue vehicle. Cummins told his wife that he planned to go to the Williamson County Medical Center for a job interview. Subsequent investigation revealed that Cummins had no scheduled interview.
13. Cummins' wife returned home the evening of March 13, 2017 and discovered a note left from Cummins. In the note, Cummins explained that he was travelling to Virginia Beach or the D.C. area to clear his head. He said he would be back and urged his wife not to call

the police. Cummins denied doing anything wrong and asked his wife to forgive him. At that time, the wife did not contact police.

14. Late in the evening on March 13, 2017, after VICTIM did not return home, at approximately 10:30 p.m., her father called the Maury County Sheriff's Department (MCSD) to report her missing. Patrol Deputies responded and met the father at the referenced Shoney's restaurant in Columbia, the last known location where VICTIM had been seen. Deputies took a missing child report from the father, which was then forwarded to MCSD dispatch to put out the information about VICTIM county-wide to all law enforcement personnel. The father told deputies that he was concerned that his daughter might be with Cummins.
15. Meanwhile, as the investigation continued, investigators subpoenaed Cummins recent financial transactions and learned that on the morning of March 13, 2017, Cummins had purchased gas at the Shell station located next door to the Shoney's using his debit card. Video surveillance obtained from the Shell showed Cummins arriving at the Shell at approximately 8:32 a.m., pumping gas for his Nissan Rogue, and then pulling away from the pumps at approximately 8:38 a.m. As Cummins pulled away, he traveled in the direction of the nearby Shoney's.
16. On the morning of March 14, 2017, at approximately 7:30 a.m., Cummins' wife contacted MCSD and informed an MCSD Captain that Cummins did not come home the previous night and had left a note for her. She also advised that Cummins had taken out a loan the previous week of approximately \$4500. Cummins' wife advised that Cummins had purportedly done this to meet their financial needs during his suspension from work without pay. She reported that the money was missing, along with two handguns, clothes, and toiletry items. Subsequent investigation revealed that Cummins had falsified information on the application to obtain the loan.
17. During the course of the investigation, detectives learned from Cummins' wife that Cummins was prescribed Cialis, a drug commonly used to treat erectile dysfunction and prolong sexual performance, and that he had obtained a refill of approximately seven pills days prior to leaving town. Further investigation revealed that Cummins had a prescription of Cialis filled for six pills on March 10, 2017 at the Kroger Pharmacy located at 1202 S James Campbell Boulevard in Columbia, Tennessee only three days prior to leaving town.
18. On March 29, 2017, an employee of Super 8 Motels contacted the TBI / FBI tip-line and advised that she had checked the Motel's national database for the name Tad Cummins. The database showed that Cummins had stayed at a Super 8 location in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma located at 3852 S. Prospect on March 15, 2017 and March 16, 2017. The

employee stated that the information in the database showed that Cummins gave a Columbia, Tennessee address. It also showed his phone number as 931-\*\*\*-1919, a known phone number belonging to Cummins, and postal zip code of 38401. A photocopy of Cummins Tennessee driver's license taken by the clerk was provided to investigators. Cummins rented a room with a single queen-sized bed. Upon further investigation, investigators learned from a witness at the motel that Cummins had asked for directions to a local Walmart..

19. On March 30, 2017, investigators contacted Walmart and obtained surveillance images confirming that Cummins and VICTIM visited the Walmart located at 100 East I-240 Service Road in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on March 15, 2017 at approximately 4:30p.m. local time.
20. On April 1, 2017, investigators received information from Wyndham Hotels and Resorts, who owns and operates several motel chains, including Super 8 Motels, that a motel room was booked under the name of Tad Cummins on March 16 and March 17, 2017 at the Guymon, Oklahoma, Super 8 Motel location. A local FBI agent went to the motel and was able to confirm the information. Additionally, the agent learned that the motel room rented to Cummins had only one bed.
21. Further investigation also revealed that Cummins, while in Guymon, Oklahoma, traveled to another local Walmart with VICTIM on March 16, 2017, and purchased several items, including women's razors, chocolate, cheese cubes, and KY Jelly, a commonly used lubricant for sexual intercourse. The items were purchased with cash, and a copy of the receipt was obtained. Cummins and VICTIM were again captured on store surveillance images.
22. On April 20, 2017, Cummins and VICTIM were located in Cecilville, California by investigators, and CUMMINS was arrested on a state warrant for aggravated kidnapping. It is believed based on the investigation to date, as set forth herein, that Cummins, age 50, and VICTIM, age 15, are involved in a sexual relationship and traveled in interstate commerce to continue their relationship and to engage in unlawful sexual activity.
23. Based upon the foregoing, I submit that there is probable cause to believe that Tad E. Cummins has committed the offense of transporting a minor in interstate commerce with the intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2423(a).