

# Richard Pace arrested and charged with 144 counts of sexual battery on a victim under 12 years old

Friday, March 31, 2017

Ken J. Mascara  
Sheriff of St. Lucie County, FL  
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Headline: Richard Pace arrested and charged with 144 counts of sexual battery on a victim under 12 years old

Sheriff Ken Mascara announced that Richard Pace, 40, was arrested on 144 counts of child molestation in events that occurred between 2009 and 2013.

According to the Sheriff, two female victims approached their School Resource Deputy and told them that Pace, a family friend, inappropriately touched them multiple times during this period.

"These brave young ladies overcame their fears and did the right thing," said Sheriff Ken J. Mascara. "Through the relationship they had developed with their School Resource Deputy, they told their story knowing it would be handled professionally and sensitively. This is a perfect example of the important role our deputies play in the school system and the bond they develop with students."

According to the Sheriff, the two victims, their parents and a Victim's Advocate from the 19th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office met with detectives, saying Pace initially lived with the family when the inappropriate conduct began and it continued once he moved out of their home. During this time, he performed various sex acts on the victims.

"Protecting our most vulnerable members of the community is one of my highest priorities," Mascara said. "Individuals like Pace are below scum and their actions permanently scar both victims and their families. If there are any other victims that have been abused by Pace, I urge them to contact our office and know they will be protected, respected and heard."

Pace was booked into the St. Lucie County Jail and held without bond.

## ABOUT THE SHERIFF:

The Florida Constitution establishes the Office of the elected County Sheriff who is responsible for preserving the peace, carrying out the orders of Florida courts and the Board of County Commissioners, and providing deputies at court sessions and meetings of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief correctional officer of the county. Sheriff Ken J. Mascara is elected by the people of St. Lucie County and is accountable to them.