



Jasper County Sheriff's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2026

Jasper County Man Arrested on Multiple Sexual Offense Charges

On Thursday, February 19, following interviews and an extensive investigation, deputies with the Jasper County Sheriff's Office arrested 64-year-old **James Allen Beckett** of Ridgeland.

Beckett has been charged with five counts of **Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, First Degree**, and two counts of **Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, First Degree**.

During the execution of a search warrant at Beckett's residence, deputies also discovered an alligator that was being kept illegally. The JCSO contacted the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, which responded to assist with the safe removal of the animal.

This remains an active and ongoing investigation. Additional charges are pending, including potential charges that may be brought forth by SCDNR.

All individuals are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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