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Man Soliciting Photos from Children Online Receives Lengthy Prison Sentence

Shawn Maurice Lubell pled guilty on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 in New Hanover County Superior Court to nine counts of Taking Indecent Liberties with Children.

An investigation by the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office discovered that Lubell, age 39, was posing online as a teenage girl and attempting to solicit photographs from minors across the country. A digital forensic analysis of the defendant's phone found text chats and online communications consistent with these acts.

"We will continue to prosecute the worst individuals who do the worst things," remarked District Attorney Jason W. Smith.

The Hon. R. Kent Harrell, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, sentenced the defendant to 119–210 months active prison time in the NC Division of Adult Correction. Upon his release from prison the defendant will be required to register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life, and will be subject to satellite-based monitoring.



Shawn Maurice Lubell