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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2026

Bridgeton Man Arrested and Charged with Aggravated Sexual Assault of a 12-Year-Old Following Investigation by the Mercer County Prosecutor's Special Victims Unit

Mercer County Prosecutor Janetta D. Marbre reported today that an investigation conducted by the prosecutor's Special Victims Unit (SVU) and the Trenton Police Department has resulted in the arrest of a Bridgeton man.

Alex Torres-Lopez, 35, is charged with one count of first-degree aggravated sexual assault, one count of second-degree sexual assault, and multiple counts of endangering the welfare of a child related to the possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material. The prosecutor's office has filed a motion to detain Torres-Lopez pending trial.

On January 5, 2026, detectives with the prosecutor's SVU received information from the Trenton Police that a 12-year-old girl residing in Trenton was the victim of a sexual assault. An investigation was initiated and Torres-Lopez was identified as a subject.

The investigation revealed that the victim met Torres-Lopez on the social media platforms Snapchat and Roblox. On multiple occasions in the fall of 2025, Torres-Lopez met the 12-year-old girl in Trenton where they engaged in sexual intercourse. The investigation also revealed that Torres-Lopez had the victim send him pornographic images and videos of herself.

Torres-Lopez was taken into custody without incident on January 7 at his Bridgeton residence by the Mercer County Prosecutor's Special Investigations Unit.

First-degree crimes carry a sentence of 10 to 20 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$200,000. Second-degree crimes carry a sentence of five to 10 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$150,000.

The ongoing investigation is being led by Prosecutor's Detectives Natalie Martinez and Gloria Phillips and Trenton Detective Taja Durling. Anyone with information is asked to contact SVU Sergeant Sherika Salmon at (609) 960-3119. Tips can also be submitted anonymously online at www.mercercountyprosecutor.com.

Prosecutor Marbrey urges anyone with information about suspected improper contact by unknown persons communicating with children via the internet or possible exploitation or sexual abuse of children to please contact the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit at (609) 989-6568 or the New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force tip line at (888) 648-6007.

Despite having been charged, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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Alex Torres-Lopez