

# VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

## **SUSPECT ARRESTED AFTER PICKING UP, PROPOSITIONING, EXPOSING SELF TO TEEN RUNAWAY**

A man suspected of bringing a 14-year-old runaway to his house, propositioning her for sex and stripping off all his clothes was arrested this afternoon after an investigation that started when the teenage girl escaped his house and ran to a sheriff's deputy for help.

William Webb, 52, of 1304 Comerwood Drive in Deltona, was arrested around 12:35 p.m. today after initially refusing to open his door - which members of a Sheriff's Office Street Crimes Unit promptly breached to take him into custody.

The victim, a girl who ran away from the Florida United Methodist Children's Home in Enterprise late Monday, told sheriff's investigators she met Webb and a woman at a gas station in Deltona. She spoke with them, and they agreed to let her stay at their house. The girl said she was frightened about staying at the gas station by herself.

The woman dropped off Webb and the girl at 1304 Comerwood and left. Once inside the house, the girl said Webb started soliciting sex acts from her - suggesting that "nothing is free" and it would "cost" her to stay with him. When she tried to leave, she said he blocked the doorway.

She said Webb then took off all of his clothes and began to masturbate in front of her. She said he mentioned taking her into a back room and sexually assaulting her. Then she said he started making phone calls and sending texts, claiming: "I'm gonna sell you."

Just after 4 a.m., after Webb fell asleep, the girl said she ran outside, saw a Sheriff's Office patrol car and ran toward it for help.

Deputies attempted to contact Webb at his house that morning, but no one answered and all the lights were off. They returned with a warrant today. Webb was arrested and interviewed before being transported to the Volusia County Branch Jail, where he was being held without bail on felony charges of lewd or lascivious conduct, lewd or lascivious exhibition and false imprisonment.

The Sheriff's Office asks anyone with any information about similar incidents or any other potential victims to contact the Sheriff's Office Child Exploitation Unit at 386-323-3574.

###

Andrew Gant

Volusia County Sheriff's Office

O: 386-736-5989

C: 386-804-9227

After-hours on-call line: 407-504-1871

@VolusiaSheriff

[volusiasheriff.org](http://volusiasheriff.org)