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**Massachusetts State Police**

**For Immediate Release:**

**January 9, 2026**

**Discovery of Child Sexual Abuse Material Discovered in Princeton Home of  
After School Program Instructor**

Following tips that came in from an electronic service provider to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Massachusetts State Police Cyber Crime Unit secured a search warrant through Worcester District Court to search the residence of John Buffington, 67, of Princeton, MA, for evidence of child sexual abuse material. Mr. Buffington had been working with the Town of Princeton Recreation Department through an after-school program, serving as an instructor for classes in woodworking, primitive skills, and kite-making.

In the evening on January 8, 2026, members of the Massachusetts State Police Cyber Crime Unit, along with the Massachusetts State Police S.T.O.P. TEAM, the U.S. Secret Service Cyber Task Force, and officers from the Princeton Police Department, attempted to serve the search warrant at Mr. Buffington's home. As officers announced themselves at the door, Mr. Buffington fled into a garage, where he subsequently died by apparent suicide. The State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney's Office was notified of the apparent suicide by firearm. Princeton and Sterling Fire and EMS were dispatched to the scene and pronounced Mr. Buffington deceased. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner was notified and will determine the final cause of death.

Upon entering Mr. Buffington's home, law enforcement officers found evidence of child sexual abuse material. Officers additionally located sexually explicit material that involved pictures of at least one child who was known to the suspect.

A subsequent investigation revealed that Mr. Buffington previously worked in Lincoln, MA, in an after-school program until 2014.

While the investigation is in its preliminary stages, at this time, there is no apparent evidence that any child Mr. Buffington encountered has been harmed.

The Massachusetts State Police, The Worcester County District Attorney's Office, and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office will be working in conjunction with local, state, and federal partners to better understand the scope of Mr. Buffington's activities and to ensure that any parties affected by Mr. Buffington in his role as a community member of trust are identified and receive appropriate services.

Any family who has concerns about their child's interaction with Mr. Buffington in **Princeton** should contact the [Children's Advocacy Center of Worcester County](#) at 774-317-2132.

Parents whose children may have had interactions of concern with Mr. Buffington during his time in **Lincoln** should contact the [Middlesex Children's Advocacy Center](#) at 781-897-8400.