

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



Luring or Enticing a Child

Currently, an adult who intentionally lures or entices a child, or attempts to lure or entice a child other than for a lawful purpose into their vehicle or dwelling can only be charged with a misdemeanor under Florida law if it is their first offense of this nature. Because a first offense is only categorized as a misdemeanor, it is difficult for law enforcement to obtain arrest and search warrants and make physical arrests of these dangerous criminals if they have no other similar convictions. Felony luring applies only to an adult with a previous conviction for a sexual battery or lewd offense or where a computer was used to lure or entice a child.

Law enforcement continues to see examples of adults who attempt to lure and entice young children into their vehicles with the clear intent of kidnapping these children and performing unspeakable acts upon them. Unfortunately, in many instances, unless the perpetrator has already been charged with luring or enticing or attempting to lure or entice a child, the only charge that can be brought against the perpetrator is a misdemeanor for attempting to lure or entice a child.

This legislation will amend s. 787.025, the luring statute, to increase the penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony for an adult who intentionally lures or entices or attempts to lure or entice a child under the age of 12, other than for a lawful purpose. This legislation will also increase the criminal penalties for repeat offenders. This legislation will make an important change to current law to bring greater uniformity to the law used to protect our children and ensure these dangerous predators can be held accountable from the start.

Support HB 1129 by Rep. Salzman and SB 1196 by Sen. Ingolia



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