

STATE OF IDAHO

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL RAÚL R. LABRADOR

February 7, 2023

Dear law enforcement partners:

I am writing to you because our State needs your help. In 2013, the Idaho Legislature passed Idaho Code § 67-1410, establishing the Office of the Attorney General Internet Crimes Against Children ("ICAC") Unit. The statute gave the ICAC Unit the mandate to investigate and prosecute crimes related to child sexual abuse and exploitation. Since then, many of you have joined our fight by signing on to the ICAC Taskforce. Others have informally joined the cause by accepting referrals and providing other forms of assistance. Idaho would not be where it is in the fight against child exploitation without your help. We've made significant progress, but we have not won this war and need to do more.

When the Legislature formed the ICAC Unit in 2013, the Attorney General's Office staffed the unit with 12.5 individuals. Today, our staff has doubled, including several affiliated investigators house in your offices. In that same timeframe, however, the number of annual referrals has increased tenfold—from 223 in 2013 to 2,304 referrals in 2022. Simply put, my office does not have the manpower to investigate all these referrals.

To address this growing problem, I am directing additional resources in my office to investigate and prosecute those who exploit children. I will assign two Deputy Attorneys General to the ICAC Unit. Our in-house attorneys will provide legal advice to investigators in the ICAC Unit and prosecute cases investigated by the unit. The attorneys and investigators in the ICAC Unit will investigate and prosecute as many cases as they can responsibly handle. Of course, I recognize that even with additional staffing, our office does not have the resources to investigate and prosecute every case. To ensure the well-being of every child in Idaho, we need your help.

For the referrals the ICAC Unit cannot investigate and prosecute, I am directing the ICAC Unit to determine the geographic location of the alleged crime and forward the referral to the appropriate local law enforcement agency for investigation. As always, the ICAC Unit will remain available to assist local law enforcement agencies and county prosecutors as they take the lead on these referred investigations. Furthermore, the ICAC Unit will also continue to offer training throughout the State for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and others.

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If you have any questions about this process or need to request assistance from the ICAC Unit, please contact:

Jeff Nye Chief, Criminal Division jeff.nye@ag.idaho.gov 208-332-3554 Christopher McCormick ICAC Commander <u>christopher.mccormick@ag.idaho.gov</u> 208-334-4526

Thank you for your service to our State. Together, we can continue to make Idaho a safer place for children and families.

K. Jabradon

Best regards,

RAÚL R. LABRADOR Attorney General *of* Idaho