

**CITY OF RICHLAND
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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March 6, 2026

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richland Police and SER-ICAC Task Force Serve Search Warrant in Ongoing Cyber Tip Investigation

RICHLAND, Wash. -- Detectives with the Southeast Regional Internet Crimes Against Children (SER-ICAC) Task Force, in partnership with the Richland Police Department, served a search warrant Thursday morning as part of an ongoing investigation involving the alleged possession and distribution of sexually explicit material involving minors (Case # 25-049694).

On March 5, 2026, members of the SER-ICAC Task Force served a search warrant at a residence in the 1700 block of April Loop in Richland. The operation was supported by the Richland Police Department's Street Crimes Unit (SCU), Criminal Investigation Detectives (CID), and patrol officers, as well as the Benton County Sheriff's Office Electronic Search Dog (ESD) and the Kennewick Police Criminal Investigations Department (CID).

The investigation stems from a CyberTip received through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), which alerted investigators to suspected online activity involving the possession and distribution of sexually explicit images of minors.

Prior to the service of the warrant, investigators identified the suspect as Zachary Monroe Randles. During the investigation, detectives observed photos indicating the suspect had access to firearms. Out of an abundance of caution, SCU officers conducted surveillance of the residence until Randles exited the home, where he was taken into custody without incident.

Detectives then executed the search warrant at the residence, locating multiple digital devices believed to contain potential evidence. Under the direction of the Benton County Prosecutor's Office, investigators also seized firearms found in the suspect's possession, including a loaded handgun and an AR-15-style rifle, which were unsecured within the residence.

Randles was booked into the Benton County Jail on charges related to the investigation.

Randles was previously arrested by the Richland Police Department in 2024 for Rape of a Child in the First Degree, and that case remains pending through the court process.

The investigation remains ongoing, and additional charges may be considered as evidence is examined.

The Southeast Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force works collaboratively with local, state, and federal partners to investigate crimes involving the exploitation of children online. The task force also encourages parents and guardians to stay informed about online safety and report suspected exploitation.

Anyone with information related to the exploitation of children online is encouraged to report it to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline at [CyberTipline.org](https://www.cybertipline.org).

About Richland Police Department:

www.richlandwa.gov/departments/police-department

The Richland Police Department is committed to creating a safe environment and cultivating meaningful community relationships through dedicated, professional law enforcement services. Established with a dedication to teamwork, integrity, and excellence, the department strives to maintain public safety and enhance the quality of life for all residents.

About Southeast Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (SER-ICAC TF):

The SER-ICAC TF is a collaborative law enforcement effort dedicated to combating the proliferation of internet crimes against children in the Southeast region. By leveraging resources and expertise from various agencies, including the Richland Police Department, Kennewick Police Department, Benton County Sheriff's Office, and the Department of Homeland Security - Investigations Division, the task force works tirelessly to investigate, prosecute, and prevent online exploitation and abuse of minors.

About the Washington State Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

www.waictf.org

The Washington State Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (WA ICAC TF) is a multi-jurisdictional group of agencies dedicated to the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation. The WA ICAC TF is one of 61 task force groups in the national ICAC Task Force Program which is administered by the US Department of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The task force is organized to provide a multi-jurisdictional approach to the problem of Internet Crimes Against Children, by including agencies from local, state and federal law enforcement, federal and state agencies and federal and local prosecution. The Task Force enhances the capabilities of Washington State Law Enforcement Agencies in investigating ICAC cases through investigative assistance, training and computer forensic assistance.

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