

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Manitou Springs Police Department Arrest Individual for Sexual Assault on a Child by One in a Position of Trust

MANITOU SPRINGS CO – In early December of 2021, the Manitou Springs Police Department began an investigation into a report of unlawful sexual assault on a child in 2009-2010 by a former teacher and soccer coach at the Manitou Springs High School. The investigation led to an arrest warrant being issued of the former teacher, Matthew Barton, age 53, for six counts of the felony crime of Sexual Assault on a child by One in a Position of Trust on January 10th, 2022. Mr. Barton turned himself into the Criminal Justice Center on the late evening of the same date.

Matthew Barton no longer works at Manitou Springs High School as of 2011. The Manitou Springs School District remains a great partner of ours and has been fully cooperative with our investigation.

We understand that this information may create many questions and concerns for the Manitou Springs community. In order to hold this investigation to a high standard, and to protect the identity and rights of any victim(s) involved, we will not be releasing further information regarding this arrest.

We ask that if any member of the public has any information on this case or Mr. Barton, please reach out to the Manitou Springs Police Department at (719) 685-5407. Please remember that Mr. Barton is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The MSPD is encouraging parents to continue to maintain close and transparent relationships with their children, where they can have discussions about situations like this. If you ever believe that a child was sexually assaulted, please reach out to your local law enforcement agency.

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