

COUNTY OF BERRIEN  
OFFICE *of the* PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**MICHAEL J. SEPIC**  
*Prosecuting Attorney*

**JENNIFER L. SMITH**  
*Chief Assistant Prosecutor*



**STEVEN P. PIERANGELI**  
*Chief Trial Attorney*

## Press Release

April 3, 2017

### Juvenile charged in sexual assault of postal worker

Matthew Kyle Griffis, age 16 of Benton Harbor, has been charged in juvenile court with Kidnapping (a life maximum if charged as an adult) and Criminal Sexual Conduct (sexual contact) 2d Degree (a 15 year maximum if charged as an adult).

It is alleged that on Friday, March 31, 2017, at about noon on McAllister Street in the City of Benton Harbor, Griffis forcibly dragged a United States Post Office letter carrier to the side of the home in which he lived, sexually assaulted her, and returned to his home where Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety officers found him. Griffis was taken into custody and lodged at the Berrien County Juvenile Detention Center.

Bond was set at \$125,000. The Berrien County Prosecutor's Office is seeking waiver into adult court. A phase I waiver hearing is scheduled for April 18 at 1:30 pm at the St. Joseph Courthouse.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Press release available at County Web site:

<http://www.berriencounty.org/ProsecutingAttorney/pressreleases>