



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 4, 2024

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## **Attorney General Griffin Announces Arrest of Jacksonville Man on Child Pornography Charges**

*Griffin: 'It truly takes a team to protect our children from exploitation'*

**LITTLE ROCK** – Attorney General Tim Griffin today issued the following statement regarding the arrest of Xavier Antonio Simmons, 22, of Jacksonville on 150 counts of distributing, possessing, or viewing matter depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child:

“Thanks to a CyberTip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) which came through the Arkansas Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, Special Agents from my office’s Special Investigations Division executed a search warrant at Mr. Simmons’ home on June 3 with the assistance of the Jacksonville Police Department.

“I am grateful for the combined efforts of the ICAC Task Force, my agents, and Jacksonville Police to take this man into custody. I am also grateful for the tip provided to NCMEC and encourage all Arkansans who may have knowledge of this kind of heinous crime to pass that information along. It truly takes a team to protect our children from exploitation.”

Simmons was booked on June 3 into the Pulaski County Regional Detention Center, where he is currently being held without bond.

To make a report to NCMEC's CyberTipline, visit <https://report.cybertip.org>.

### **About Attorney General Tim Griffin**

Tim Griffin was sworn in as the 57th Attorney General of Arkansas on January 10, 2023, having previously served as the state's 20th Lieutenant Governor from 2015-2023. From 2011-2015, Griffin served as the 24th representative of Arkansas's Second Congressional District, where he served on the House Committee on Ways and Means, House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Ethics and House Committee on the Judiciary while also serving as a Deputy Whip for the Majority.

Griffin has served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for more than 27 years and currently holds the rank of colonel. In 2005, Griffin was mobilized to active duty as an Army prosecutor at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq.

He is currently serving as the Commander of the 2d Legal Operations Detachment in New Orleans, Louisiana. His previous assignments include serving as the Commander of the 134th Legal Operations Detachment at Fort Liberty (née Bragg), North Carolina, and as a Senior Legislative Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon. Griffin earned a master's degree in strategic studies as a Distinguished Honor Graduate from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Griffin also served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs for President George W. Bush; Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Arkansas; Senior Investigative Counsel, Government Reform and Oversight Committee, U.S. House of Representatives; and Associate Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel David M. Barrett, In re: HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Griffin is a graduate of Magnolia High School, Hendrix College in Conway, and Tulane Law School in New Orleans. He attended graduate school at Oxford University. He is admitted to practice law in Arkansas (active) and Louisiana (inactive). Griffin lives in Little Rock with his wife, Elizabeth, a Camden native, and their three children.

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