



OFFICE OF  
**MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF**  
**RUBEN MARTÉ**

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## **Media Release**

On May 19, 2025, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office received a report regarding an injured infant being treated at IU Health Bloomington Hospital. The report indicated the infant had multiple injuries at various stages of healing. It was determined the child was the infant of Probationary Deputy (Trainee) Noel Hernandez Jr. Given the suspicious nature of the injuries, Sheriff Marté contacted the Indiana State Police to conduct an independent investigation. On that same date, Sheriff Marté suspended Hernandez's police authority and placed him on administrative leave, pending the outcome of the investigation.

On May 21, 2025, a judicial officer of the Monroe County Courts issued a warrant for Hernandez's arrest after finding probable cause for following violations of Indiana Code:

- I.C. 35-46-1-4 - Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Catastrophic Injury
- I.C. 35-46-1-4 - Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury
- I.C. 35-42-2-1.5 - Aggravated Battery
- I.C. 35-42-2-1 - Battery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury to a Person Less Than 14 Years Old

Upon the arrest of Hernandez, Sheriff Marté terminated his employment with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Hernandez had been employed with the Sheriff's Office since March 31, 2025, and was currently in the initial stages of his training.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is fully cooperating with the Indiana State Police Investigation. As has been his practice since assuming office on January 1, 2023, Sheriff Marté is committed to transparency to the public we serve and holding members of the agency accountable.

Questions regarding the Indiana State Police investigation into this matter should be referred to Sgt Kevin Getz, Public Information Officer of the Indiana State Police, ISP Post 33, (812) 332-4411.

Charges listed are merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.