



# Tupelo Police Department

---

## Press Release

-----For Immediate Release-----

**02-23-23**

### **Sexual Battery Arrest Made:**

On 02-15-23, the Tupelo Police Department received an anonymous tip pertaining to a possible inappropriate relationship between a local youth pastor and a minor. Detectives with the Tupelo Police Department investigated the tip and were able to determine that the tip was valid.

On 02-22-23, Alexander R. Blackwelder (26 y/o male, Tupelo) was taken into custody by the Tupelo Police Department and charged with two counts of Sexual Battery-Position of Trust or Authority of a Child and one count of Enticement of a Child to Produce Visual Depiction of Sexual Conduct.

On 02-23-23, Tupelo Municipal Court Judge Allen ordered Blackwelder to be held without bond. These charges will be presented to the Lee County Grand Jury.

