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# Runaway deputy arrested in Alaska 23 years after Florida rape case

A tip led FBI agents in Tampa and Anchorage to Eagle River where Joseph Keenan May, 60, lived as Michael Brent Camp, 55, until Friday. May fled Florida in 1993 to avoid prosecution for allegedly raping a 6-year-old girl.

BY NICOLE HENSLEY [Follow](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Saturday, June 21, 2014, 5:31 PM A A A

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FBI agents arrested Joseph Keenan May in Eagle River, Alaska on Friday morning 23 years after he fled Florida to avoid prosecution for allegedly raping a 6-year-old girl.

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A disgraced cop accused of stealing a relative's identity and raping a little girl dodged the law for more than two decades, but in the end, the law won.

FBI agents knocked on the door of Joseph Keenan May, 60, at the end of the road in Alaska early Friday morning where he made a life for himself as a computer repairman, husband and father.

He appeared handcuffed in a lonely federal courtroom in Anchorage hours later on a warrant issued in 1993 for Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for capital sexual battery, indictment documents show. He allegedly raped a 6-year-old girl in 1991.

He pleaded not guilty as a curious law official got a good look at the man who claimed to be Michael B. Camp.

"He looked broken," Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Bradley told the Daily News. "It's a shock to be on the run that long."

May had lived on the lam since 1993 when he fled Florida and his life as a Manatee County Sheriff's Office deputy to avoid prosecution for capital sexual battery for allegedly raping a 6-year-old girl.

He assumed the identity of his stepbrother, the other son of his father, who died in 1973 as a teenager in Pennsylvania and left behind a social security number May allegedly used to change his life. The new identity was younger by five years, but it would come with consequences, Bradley explained.

Alaska is a hot bed for fugitives, military deserters and other people running from child support, taxes and arrest warrants.

"People live on their own, people won't bother you and there's not a lot of law enforcement," Bradley said. "It's the end of the road. It's as far as you can go and still be in the United States."

May escaped detection for 20 years by avoiding jobs that required fingerprints and by avoiding law enforcement.

In Bradley's experience, fugitives feel a "sense of relief" when they're finally caught.

"It's exhausting. Everytime you see a police car, you get nervous. You've been living a life," he said.

However, court records show May had several stints in the public record when he went through a divorce and was pulled over by Alaska State Troopers for speeding in 2004 and 2012. He was also a defendant in a civil District Court case and a plaintiff in a civil Superior Court case for personal injury.

It wasn't until a tip landed in the Tampa FBI office did authorities get an idea that May was hiding out in Eagle River.

The records used by the FBI to build their case against May stemmed from 2009 when he used Camp's social security number to obtain a driver's license and in 2013, to apply for unemployment benefits, court documents show.

Up until that tip, there was little to no record that authorities seeking his location or arrest in newspaper records. A call to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office was not immediately returned to the Daily News on Saturday.

When agents searched the home, they reportedly found several firearms, Bradley said, and May could face additional weapon charges related to those findings.

May also faces two counts of unlawful use of a social security number and two counts of aggravated identity theft. May will not get a bail, based on his history of fleeing authorities.

May also lived in Houston, Alaska where he was building a new home after he and his ex-wife divorced. It's not clear if his ex-wife and two children, a 19-year-old son that recently completed U.S. Navy basic training, and a 15-year-old daughter are aware of his real identity and alleged crimes.

[nhensley@nydailynews.com](mailto:nhensley@nydailynews.com)

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