



# NEWS RELEASE

*Miss. Department of Corrections \*723 N. President St. \*Jackson, Miss. 39202 \* (601) 359-5600 \* Fax: (601) 359-5738*

Date: April --, 2003  
Contact: Ken Jones  
Phone: (601) 359-5608  
Fax: (601) 359-5738

## **Mississippi State Penitentiary Inmate Indicted By Sunflower Grand Jury**

---

Jackson – State inmate Lenzy Louis Hodgin #13978A, a 32-year old white male serving a 10-year sentence from Forrest County for child molesting, was indicted by the Sunflower County Grand Jury and charged with one count of fondling and one count of sexual battery. Hodgin's indictment stemmed from a joint criminal investigation conducted by the Mississippi Department of Corrections' (MDOC) Internal Audit Division (IAD) and the state Attorney General's (AG) office. The report was filed with the Sunflower County District Attorney's office in March. Hodgin was served a warrant by the Sunflower County's Sheriff's Department on April 22.

According to prison officials, Hodgin's indictment evolved from an exhaustive investigation by representatives of IAD and the AG's office involving the inmate's alleged sexual abuse of a visitor's child on visiting day at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. Prison officials have since implemented stringent new visitation rules to prevent similar occurrences from happening in the future. They include:

- Outside visitation (yard area) is now strictly limited to designated areas to facilitate continuous monitoring by staff.
- Correctional staff now strictly monitor entry and exit of restrooms by offenders and visitors.
- Offenders working in kitchens that utilize dining rooms for visitation are no longer allowed access to dining rooms during visitation hours. Offender workers are prohibited from using the same restroom facilities as visitors.
- The above revisions of visitation rules have been put in place at all state prisons and are being strictly enforced.

