



NEWS RELEASE



ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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For Immediate Release:

Today's Date: December 11, 2009
Prepared By: Detective Richard LaLonde
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Gang Threat Hoax:

It appears for the second time this year a threat of gang violence is being distributed on the internet. This message is a hoax and should be disregarded by the individuals receiving it. The following is taken verbatim from one such text message:

While on any roads, if you see a baby car seat sitting on the side of the road, do not stop. The gangs are targeting people, especially women, to stop their vehicles to help a baby. They make this baby look as if it has blood on itself or on its clothed, when you get out of your vehicle in an attempt to help, the gang jumps out from the cornfields or tall bushes. They have beaten women to near death and then continued to rape them with baseball bats and other torture methods. This is not just a forward of information, it is within our area. If you do happen to see a car seat do not stop call the police immediately!!! Please send this onto everyone you know.

Rita Reed
TN Dept. of Correction Central Dispatch
Has a listed number for Ms Reed here.

This message has been sent out by email and text messages nationally and by all indications is a hoax. This message is consistent with past urban myths of gang initiation, such as the flashing of the headlights to an oncoming vehicle with no lights on at night. Please disregard any email or text message received related to the above information.