

Office of the State Attorney
Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida
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MELISSA W. NELSON
STATE ATTORNEY

311 West Monroe Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202-4242
TEL: (904) 255-2500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Chapman

Phone: (904) 255-3004

Cell: (904) 524-6626

ChapmanD@coj.net

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ACOSTA-MORGADO SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR SEX CRIMES AGAINST TEEN

State Attorney Melissa Nelson announces the Honorable London Kite sentenced Julio Acosta-Morgado to life in Florida State Prison during a Sept. 20, 2024, sentencing hearing. Acosta-Morgado was also designated a Sexual Predator. The hearing took place after a Duval County jury on July 22, 2024, found Julio Acosta-Morgado guilty of two counts of Custodial Sexual Battery; two counts Lewd or Lascivious Molestation; and one count Lewd or Lascivious Conduct.

On Nov. 14, 2023, a 13-year-old victim reported the ongoing sexual abuse by his athletic trainer — Acosta-Morgado. The victim and his brother trained at Acosta-Morgado's home twice a week. While his older brother would be upstairs in a leg compression device, Acosta-Morgado would isolate the victim and sexually assault him; these actions occurred at least 10 times over a period of about a month. A detective with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office was assigned to the case and, during the investigation, another victim was discovered on Nov. 15, 2023. The second victim told the police he received athletic training from Acosta-Morgado in late 2020. At the end of the training session, the victim was instructed to take a shower. On one occasion, Acosta-Morgado entered the shower nude. Numerous times during their training, Acosta-Morgado would grope and kiss the 10-year-old victim. In addition, three of Morgado's nephews testified about a similar fact pattern by Morgado which occurred when they were between 9 and 15 years old.

The case was investigated by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Assistant State Attorneys Terence Martin and Katherina Brown.