

A Putnam County grand jury has indicted 21-year-old Daniel Kurtis Birdwell, of Lafayette, for sexual exploitation of a minor.

According to the Cookeville Herald Citizen, Birdwell met the 11-year-old girl in a chat room last fall, sent her sexual photos via text message and asked for photos from her.

The girl then told her mom, who contacted the Putnam Sheriffs Department.

Putnam Sheriff's Detective Jimmy Patterson opened the investigation, taking his findings to the Putnam grand jury earlier this month.

The grand jury charged Birdwell with sexual exploitation of a minor and exhibition of material to a minor.

The indictment alleges that Birdwell "unlawfully, knowingly, and intentionally displayed to a minor, or exposed a minor to, material containing sexual activity or simulated sexual activity that is patently offensive where the purpose of the display can reasonably be construed as being for the sexual arousal or gratification of the minor or the person displaying the material."

The indictment goes on to say Birdwell "unlawfully and knowingly exhibited or made available to (the 11-year-old girl) a picture, photograph, or image of a person or portion of the human body that depicts nudity, that is harmful to minors."

On March 16, Deputy Brandon Masters came to Macon County and served the pick-up indictment on Birdwell, who was brought to Cookeville and booked into the Putnam jail.

His Criminal Court arraignment is scheduled for March 24th.