

**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA**

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NEWS RELEASE

From: Sheriff Al St Lawrence
Contact: Lt. Thomas Tillman
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Date: April 9, 2009

Absconded Sex Offender Arrested

Matthew Varner, an absconded sex offender from Chatham County, was located and arrested on April 3, 2009, by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office in California. Mr. Varner had been listed as an absconder by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office since May of 2008 when it was discovered that he was no longer living at his registered address. A warrant for his arrest was then obtained and entered in the national database.

Mr. Varner has since waived extradition to Chatham County and will be returned to our jurisdiction to face charges that he violated the terms of the Georgia Sex Offender Registry. First time violators of the registry requirements face a sentence of 10 – 30 years upon conviction

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