

# U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION



## APPREHENDED

**NAME: Joseph Christian FONTANA**

**ALIAS: Chris FONTANA**

**WANTED FOR: RAPE OF A MINOR, SEXUAL MOLESTATION, LEWD AND LASCIVIOUS ACTS, CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, AND FBI UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION**

**DATE APPREHENDED: June 5, 2009**



Joseph Christian Fontana was taken into custody June 5 in Cabrera, Dominican Republic. The arrest was the result of coordinated efforts by the USMS International Investigations Branch, the Dirección Nacional de Control de Drogas Fugitive Unit, the USMS Sex Offender Investigations Branch-Florida, and Deputy U.S. Marshals from the Dominican Republic Foreign Field Office and the Northern District of Florida. Fontana was wanted in Santa Rosa County, Fla., for rape of a minor, 25 counts of sexual molestation, child pornography, and lewd and lascivious acts. He also was wanted by the FBI for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. A registered sex offender in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Fontana relocated to Santa Rosa County in 2001, assumed a new identity and allegedly continued to commit sex crimes against minors. In 2001, he fled and was believed to be in South America. Investigative efforts by USMS and DNCD personnel revealed Fontana was residing in Cabrera, Dominican Republic. Surveillance was initiated on several locations June 5. When Fontana was observed leaving his residence, he was taken into custody. Fontana is awaiting a deportation hearing and is expected to be transported to Florida for prosecution.

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