



Several of our parents have reached out to us via phone and text message after receiving our letter notifying them that Drew Lazar, a former employee, has been arrested. We can understand that this situation is concerning and raises questions, and we are committed to addressing them thoughtfully while also respecting important legal and privacy obligations. In our effort to keep parents informed, we decided the best way to share information was by providing this FAQ, which addresses questions that parents have raised with us.

FAQ

1. What can you tell us about Andrew “Drew” Lazar’s employment status?

Mr. Lazar is no longer working at FAST.

2. What is the status of Mr. Lazar’s criminal case?

According to the Marion County Sheriff’s Office website, Mr. Lazar was booked on April 2, 2026, and released on April 4, 2026. He was charged with 20 counts of possession of child pornography and two counts of distribution. He was released on bail and ordered to have no contact with children, prohibited from returning to the FAST facility, and cannot attend public or sporting events where persons under 18 are present. His arraignment is scheduled for May 5, 2026. *This is the hearing where a defendant is advised of the charges against them, informed of their rights, and asked to enter a plea (guilty, not guilty, no contest).*

3. What is FAST’s current background check policies and were they followed in this case?

CSF Aquatics, LLC has a detailed background check policy and procedures that we follow in hiring **every** employee that works at FAST, and we strive to comply with Florida Statutes and national standards in this regard. More specifically, we conduct a Level 2 Background check of **all** employees who have direct contact with minors. A “Level 2 Background Check” refers to specific standards outlined in Florida Statutes for screening the backgrounds of individuals seeking employment in certain fields, like ours. This screening involves fingerprinting for statewide criminal history records checks through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, national criminal history records checks through the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and local criminal records checks through local law enforcement agencies. A security background investigation also includes a search of the sexual predator and sexual offender registries of any state in which the applicant resided during the immediate preceding 5 years.

In addition, FAST is compliant with USA Swimming Safe Sport standards and requirements, and best practices for background checks for our employees. These standards provide a comprehensive, multi-layered approach to protect athletes, primarily through mandatory training, rigorous criminal background checks, and strict policies under the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP). Key standards prohibit one-on-one interactions between unrelated adults and

minors, mandate reporting of misconduct, and establish strict travel and electronic communication guidelines. Safe sport violations can lead to suspensions or permanent bans from the sport. As soon as we learned of Mr. Lazar's arrest, we reported it to USA Swimming Safe Sport and to the US Center for Safe Sport.

4. How can we be sure that our kids are safe at FAST?

As a parent, your child's safety is your top priority – and it is ours as well. The safety of all of our athletes and their families is our highest priority. FAST has policies, training, and safeguards in place designed to protect those in our care. No one can work as a swim coach at FAST unless they have passed a Level 2 Background Check. We are committed to hiring the most qualified staff and complying with the highest standards in screening applicants for employment. We will continue to do so.

5. Does it appear that the conduct that led to Mr. Lazar's arrest occurred off-site and not at FAST, and involved his personal cell phone?

It is important to note that according to the Probable Cause Affidavit, written by the Detective who interviewed Mr. Lazar and who we understand is conducting the investigation, Mr. Lazar allegedly purchased pornographic photos and videos and downloaded them on his personal cell phone. The Affidavit mentions that his phone was given to the Detective. Significantly, there are no allegations that Mr. Lazar touched any child from FAST nor does Mr. Lazar admit that he touched any child. In addition, according to the Affidavit, the only photos he possessed of FAST kids were ones taken from public Instagram websites and are not nude or sexual. The Affidavit also confirms that the photos on his phone were not shared with anyone at FAST.

By reporting on what is stated in the Probable Cause Affidavit, we are not opining on the guilt or innocence of our former employee.

6. Can you share other details regarding the arrest with us?

The Ocala Police Department (OPD) is conducting an investigation regarding this criminal matter. Therefore, we encourage you to contact the OPD and ask to speak to the Investigator assigned to this case, so you can obtain more information. The number for the Ocala Police Department is 352-369-7000.

7. Do you plan on having an in-person meeting with the FAST Falcons parents?

At the current time, this FAQ shares all the information that we currently possess, so we do not plan on scheduling a meeting at the current time. We are striving to be transparent, however, because this case involves a personnel matter and an active law enforcement situation, there are limits to what we can share. I hope you understand that we must respect both legal requirements and privacy obligations.

Please know that the safety of your children continues to be our top priority. We hope you will continue to put your trust in us.

We will continue to commit ourselves to providing the finest level of training to your kids in a safe environment. We are here to support you and your family.