

—Slug:.....COMM-0849.bf.Olsson_arraignmt
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—For section.....News
—Format.....News - byline and dateline
—Dateline.....Bellows Falls
—Article Number:.....42953

Notes from editor (not for publication):

I see no evidence on his or his wife's Facebook that they are separated. Not sure it adds to the story. Took that clause out. I added that last sentence because I was curious and thought it might be relevant. Maybe not. Can go if you don't care for it.

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

#####BEGIN HED#####

1 Bellows Falls man charged with sexual assault of a minor

#####END HED#####

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2 Kenneth Olsson, an area musician, held without bail

#####END SUBHED#####

3 TEXT BODY:

#####BEGIN TEXT#####

4 Former Friends of Music at Guilford (FOMAG) conductor,
5 co-founder with his wife of Southern Vermont Lyric Theatre, and
6 music minister at Grafton Community Church Kenneth J. Olsson,
7 54, is being held without bail after arraignment in Windham
8 County Superior Court.

9 According to Vermont State Police (VSP), on May 12,
10 2025 detectives from the VSP's Bureau of Criminal Investigation,
11 Troop B East, were notified of a report of sexual assault, lewd or
12 lascivious conduct, and domestic violence perpetrated against a
13 juvenile victim.

14 Probable cause was developed through investigation to
15 charge Olsson for the crimes stemming from 2016 to 2024,
16 according to the report.

17 Olsson, who has been working for UPS, turned himself
18 in at the Westminster barracks on Jan. 14. He was arraigned Jan.
19 15.

20 Windham County State's Attorney Steven Brown told *The*
21 *Commons* the defendant has been held without bail "presumably
22 because one of the charges includes a penalty of up to life in
23 prison."

24 That charge — one of several leveled against Olsson —
25 is sexual assault of someone under the age of 16 years entrusted
26 to his care.

27 The court record alleges that from 2022 to 2023 Olsson
28 "engaged in a sexual act with another person under the age of 16
29 and the victim is entrusted to the actor's care by authority of law
30 or is the actor's child, grandchild, foster child, adopted child or
31 step-child." That penalty is up to life imprisonment.

32 **Previously convicted in 2000**

33 In May 2025, Detective Trooper Brandon Groh
34 investigated after a 15-year-old reported to a therapist that Olsson
35 sexually abused the child while she was growing up.

36 The victim told investigators sexual assault and
37 inappropriate touching allegedly began two or three years ago,
38 but that Olsson had exhibited violent behavior — shouting and
39 hitting — since the child was 5 years old.

40 Notes from the videotaped interview reveal the victim
41 alleges to have been subjected to the alleged abuser's anger
42 repeatedly and that Olsson drank alcohol consistently. The 15-

43 year-old alleges inappropriate touching became part of the abuse
44 when she was about 10 years old.

45 In 2010, while living in New Hampshire with his family,
46 Olsson was arrested for failing to inform state sex offender
47 registries that he had moved Vermont to New Hampshire.

48 Court records show Olsson was convicted of sodomy in
49 the third degree in 2000 in New York. That conviction obliged
50 him to register as a sex offender and maintain that registration for
51 10 years from his probation discharge.

52 When he moved to Vermont again in 2007, apparently
53 Olsson did register, and a state police check in February 2010
54 revealed he had been living in Walpole, New Hampshire, since
55 2009.

56 After the police involvement, Olsson registered with the
57 New Hampshire sex offender registry and said he was working as
58 a church music director.

59 Current searches of his name in the sex offender
60 registries for Vermont, New York, and New Hampshire did not
61 yield any results this week.

#####END TEXT#####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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