

NEWS

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Pleasantville Pimp Admits Prostituting Minors

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Pleasantville man pleaded guilty today for transporting minor females from Allentown to Atlantic City for the purpose of having them engage in prostitution, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Casson L. Coward, 24, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Renée M. Bumb to a one-count Information charging conspiracy to transport minors in interstate commerce to engage in prostitution. Judge Bumb continued the defendant's detention and scheduled sentencing for Feb. 4.

Coward was arrested on state charges on June 8, 2007, by Special Agents with the FBI and Troopers with the N.J. State Police.

At his plea hearing, Coward admitted that in May 2007 he met two minor girls in Allentown, Pa. In the beginning of June 2007, Coward admitted that he talked to Kevin R. Mayfield, 27, of Pleasantville, about returning to Allentown to pick up the minor girls so that they could work as prostitutes in Atlantic City.

Coward admitted that on June 5, he returned to Allentown and met with the two minor girls. Later that evening, Coward took the two minors to a motel in the Allentown area and called Mayfield and told him to meet them at the motel, Coward admitted.

After Mayfield arrived at the motel, Coward admitted he talked about "the Game," that is the business of prostitution, with the females and Mayfield. After spending the night with the minors at the motel, Coward drove one of the girls from Allentown to the Atlantic City area, he admitted. At the same time, Mayfield drove the second minor to the Atlantic City area, Coward admitted.

Coward admitted that he and Mayfield transported the minor girls to the Atlantic City area with the intent that they work as prostitutes. Once in the Atlantic City area, Coward took nude pictures of the minor girl he drove to the Atlantic City area and placed them on the Internet website "craigslist.com" to advertise her as a prostitute, he admitted. Coward admitted that after he placed the pictures on the Internet site, the minor girl received telephone calls soliciting her for sex. Coward admitted that the minor had two meetings with customers where the customers paid her for sexual activity. After the meeting, the minor female turned over the money she received to Coward, he admitted.

Kevin R. Mayfield, 27, was arrested on July 10, 2007, by members of the FBI and the Ventnor Police Department on the Complaint on a separate complaint, which also charges one count of conspiracy to transport minors in interstate commerce with the intent that the minors engage in prostitution. Mayfield's case is pending trial.

The charge of conspiring to transport minors to engage in prostitution, carries a mandatory minimum prison term of 10 years and a statutory maximum prison term of life and a \$250,000 fine.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Bumb will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and

characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of FBI's Atlantic City Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, in Newark, and Troopers with the N.J. State Police, under the direction of Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent, with the investigation. The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Richardson of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Lori M. Koch, Esq. Camden