



Department of Justice

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REYNOLDSBURG MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

20,000 images found on computer, storage media

COLUMBUS – Roger Thureau, 33, of Reynoldsburg pleaded guilty in United States District Court here today to one count of possession of child pornography after investigators found approximately 20,000 video and image files of child pornography on his home computer.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and members of the Franklin County Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force announced the plea entered today before Senior United States District Judge John D. Holschuh.

According to a statement of facts presented during the plea hearing, a Franklin County Sheriff's Detective was engaged in an investigation into sharing child pornography on the Internet in January, 2010 and observed an Internet Protocol (IP) address listing available for sharing, approximately 1,500 files whose names indicated possible images of child pornography. One such file was titled "Sex with a 6 (year old) girl 02.jpg". The investigator was able to download this file from the IP address and observed that the digital image showed a nude prepubescent female child (approximately 6-8 years-old) straddling a nude adult male.

Investigators obtained a search warrant for Thureau's house and executed the warrant on January 26, 2010. They seized computers and storage media. Forensic analysis of the computers found child pornography that had been meticulously categorized. The files included images and videos of children as young as three to six months old being sexually abused by adult men, as well as nude children tied up with rope and forced into sexually explicit positions. Investigators estimate that Thureau's computers contain approximately 20,000 video and image files of child pornography.

Thureau faces up to ten years imprisonment for possession of child pornography and will be required to forfeit any and all computer equipment used to possess the child pornography. His sentence will also include a period of court supervision of at least five years and up to life.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov.

Agencies participating in the Franklin County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, led by Franklin County Sheriff Jim Karnes' office, include the police departments from Westerville, Upper Arlington and Columbus.

Stewart commended the task force officers who investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hunter, who is prosecuting the case.

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