



Department of Justice

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FREDERICKTOWN NURSE PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORN OVER THE INTERNET

COLUMBUS – Michael D. Dunbar, 48, of Fredericktown, pleaded guilty in United States District Court here today to one count of distributing child pornography over the Internet. Dunbar is a registered nurse who has worked for home health care agencies in Knox, Richland and Franklin counties and has worked as an independent home health care worker in Franklin and Fairfield counties.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in Ohio and Michigan, and Knox County Sheriff David B. Barber announced the plea entered today before U.S. District Judge Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.

The plea agreement contains an agreed sentence of 84 months imprisonment followed by five years of supervised release. Judge Sargus conditionally accepted Dunbar's plea and will decide whether or not to accept the plea and the sentence after the court conducts a pre-sentence investigation.

According to court documents, an investigator with an Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in Virginia was patrolling the Internet in October 2009 looking for people distributing child pornography. The undercover officer created a private chat session with an individual identifying himself as "Patnted3". In that session and five subsequent sessions, the individual sent the undercover officer a total of 107 digital images of prepubescent boys engaged in explicit sexual activity.

"The information was shared with ICE agents, who determined that the Internet address traced back to Dunbar's home in Knox County," Stewart said. "ICE agents and Knox County Sheriff's Deputies searched Dunbar's home on March 2, 2010 and seized his computers and arrested him. He has been in custody since his arrest."

"Every time abhorrent images like this are produced, transmitted, or viewed a child is victimized," Moskowitz said. "Fighting for child victims remains a high priority for of ICE and we will continue to seek out and bring to justice those who mistakenly believe the Internet shields them from detection."

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, 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 identify and rescue

victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafekidhood.gov/.

Stewart commended the cooperative investigation by ICE agents and Knox County Sheriff's deputies, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hunter, who is prosecuting the case. Stewart also thanked the Ohio Board of Nursing for their cooperation in the investigation.

This investigation is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 12,000 individuals.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com> <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

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