



Department of Justice

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FORMER WESTERVILLE GIRLS LACROSSE COACH PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIVING CHILD PORN OVER THE INTERNET

COLUMBUS – Richard Case Jr., 34, of Westerville, pleaded guilty in United States District Court here today to one count of knowingly receiving child pornography over the Internet.

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 George C. Smith.

According to a statement of facts read at the plea hearing, Case posted an ad on Craigslist in June, 2010 requesting someone to meet with him and engage in sexual activities, and invited females of any age to respond. An ICAC Task Force patrolling the Internet posed as a 15-year old girl and responded to the ad.

Through a series of online conversations, Case arranged a meeting at a local park. When Case arrived for the meeting, task force officers arrested him. Agents obtained a search warrant for Case's house. They found two desktop computers and storage media which held approximately 500 images of child pornography. At the time, he was the girls' lacrosse coach at Westerville North High School.

Receipt of child pornography is punishable by at least five and up to 20 years imprisonment. After his prison term, he will be placed under court supervision for at least five years and up to life. He will be required to register as a sex offender any where he lives, works or goes to school.

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.projectsafchildhood.gov/.

Stewart commended the cooperative investigation by the Franklin County ICAC task force officers, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hunter, who is prosecuting the case.

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