

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

FILED IN OPEN COURT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
for the  
Middle District of Florida

7.27.17  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

United States of America  
v.

Case No.

3:17-mj-1285-MCR

CHARLES CORY THORNTON

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of September 15, 2016 in the county of Nassau in the  
Middle District of Florida, the defendant(s) violated:

*Code Section*  
18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(1)

*Offense Description*  
Transportation and attempted transportation of a visual depiction the production of which involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit.

Continued on the attached sheet.



Complainant's signature

Nicholas Privette, FBI Special Agent

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date:

7/27/17



Judge's signature

City and state:

Jacksonville, Florida

Monte C. Richardson, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Nicholas Privette, being duly sworn, state as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent (SA) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and have been so employed since August 2016 when I began my law enforcement training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. I am currently assigned to the Jacksonville, Florida Division of the FBI where I conduct a variety of investigations in the area of violent crimes and child exploitation. Prior to this assignment, I was employed with the United States Army for approximately 12 years as an Infantry Officer and most recently held the position of Company Commander. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership. Since becoming a Special Agent, I have worked with experienced Special Agents, as well as other law enforcement officers and personnel, including an experienced Assistant United States Attorney, all of whom have considerable experience investigating and prosecuting child exploitation offenses. A substantial portion of my duties are dedicated to investigating and assisting with cases involving crimes against children under the auspices of the FBI's "Innocent Images" National Initiative. In the performance of my duties, I have assisted in the investigation of matters involving the possession, collection, production, advertisement, receipt, and/or transportation of images of child pornography. I have been involved in searches of residences, computers, and digital media pertaining to the advertisement for, possession, collection, production,

and/or transportation of child pornography, through either the execution of search warrants or through the subject providing written consent to permit a search.

2. I have assisted in the investigation of criminal matters involving the sexual exploitation of children that constituted violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252 and 2252A, as well as Florida state statutes which criminalize the possession, receipt, and transmission of child pornography, that is, visual images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. In connection with such investigations, I have participated in interviews of subjects, witnesses, and potential victims, and I have observed more experienced Special Agents do the same and serve in the role of case agents. I am a member of the FBI Jacksonville Field Office's Child Exploitation Task Force, which is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. These agencies routinely share information involving the characteristics of child sex offenders as well as investigative techniques and leads. As a federal agent, I am authorized to investigate and assist in the prosecution of violations of laws of the United States and to execute warrants issued under the authority of the United States.

3. The statements contained in this affidavit are based on my personal knowledge as well as on information provided to me by experienced Special Agents and other law enforcement officers and personnel. This affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause for the filing of a criminal

complaint, and I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to believe that CHARLES CORY THORNTON has committed a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(1), that is, transporting and attempting to transport child pornography over the internet.

4. I make this affidavit in support of a criminal complaint against CHARLES CORY THORNTON, that is, on or about September 15, 2016, in the Middle District of Florida, defendant, CHARLES CORY THORNTON, did knowingly transport and ship, and attempt to transport and ship, using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce, that is, by computer via the internet, a visual depiction, when the production of the visual depiction involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and the visual depiction was of such conduct, the visual depiction being specifically identified in the computer file titled "14.jpg", in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(a)(1) and (b)(1).

5. On July 17, 2017, SA Jonathan S. MacDonald applied for and obtained a federal search warrant for the residence located at 85019 Miner Road, Yulee, Florida 32097. SA MacDonald was the affiant for the affidavit in support of the application for this search warrant, and I have reviewed all of the facts contained therein. A certified copy of the application and affidavit for this search warrant is attached as Exhibit A, and the facts and information contained therein is hereby

incorporated by reference herein. This warrant authorized the search of the residence located at 85019 Miner Road, Yulee, Florida 32097, the residence believed to be occupied by CHARLES EMORY THORNTON (“CHARLES”) and CHARLES CORY THORNTON (“THORNTON”), for fruits, evidence, and instrumentalities of violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252 and 2252A, that is, receipt and possession of child pornography. This search warrant was issued by United States Magistrate Judge Monte C. Richardson in Case No. 3:17-mj-1259-MCR.

6. On July 20, 2017, I, together with other FBI agents and personnel executed this federal search warrant at the residence located at 85019 Miner Road, Yulee, Florida 32097. After securing the residence, I, along with FBI SA William A. Logan, conducted a consensual interview with CHARLES. CHARLES was told that the FBI was executing a search warrant at his residence, that he was not under arrest, and that he was free to leave. The interview was conducted inside an unlocked FBI vehicle. After being advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the interview, CHARLES provided the following information, among other things:

a. CHARLES owned the house and lived with his son, THORNTON. THORNTON lived there off and on throughout many years and previously lived with his grandmother in Virginia after CHARLES grew frustrated with him and forced him to move out. When THORNTON moved back to Florida,

CHARLES allowed him to live in the house again, and THORNTON had been there for approximately three years.

b. THORNTON worked at the Naval Air Station (NAS) in Jacksonville, FL for approximately one year. THORNTON left for work each morning at approximately 5:00 AM because he had to be at work by 6:00 AM.

c. CHARLES did not “mess with computers” and knows nothing about them. THORNTON owned all the computers in the house and was the only person to use them. THORNTON set up the wireless internet in the house and knew a lot about it since he used to work for COMCAST. CHARLES did not think anyone outside the house was able to use their internet without their knowledge and said that THORNTON handled all of the “computer internet stuff.”

d. CHARLES was “shocked” to learn that his son, THORNTON, was involved with the sexual exploitation of children. However, CHARLES was not surprised that THORNTON was in trouble again. When advised that THORNTON was in possession of child pornography, CHARLES stated, “Well, there goes his new job. He’s done now.” CHARLES knew that child pornography is illegal and believed it is a serious offense that law enforcement should handle. CHARLES had no knowledge of THORNTON’s involvement with child pornography.

e. CHARLES did not believe THORNTON had ever harmed a child or would ever do so.

7. Later on July 20, 2017, SA MacDonald and SA Jeremy Burton traveled to THORNTON's place of work at NAS Jacksonville to conduct a consensual interview with THORNTON. I discussed the details of this interview with the interviewing Agents and reviewed the facts contained in their written report. Based on my discussion with the interviewing Agents and review of their investigative report, I know that THORNTON was advised that he was not under arrest and was free to leave, and that after agreeing to conduct a consensual interview, he (THORNTON) provided the following information, among other things:

a. THORNTON resided at 85019 Miner Rd, Yulee, FL 32097 with his father. THORNTON was a machinist at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville.

b. THORNTON subscribed to Internet service at the residence through Comcast, and the Internet was in THORNTON's name. THORNTON set the wireless connection such that it required the use of a passcode. THORNTON provided the passcode to family and friends that visited the residence. THORNTON had a personal desktop computer in his bedroom, but there was also a laptop computer that belonged to his friend within the residence. THORNTON was trying to repair the computer for his friend. No one other than THORNTON

used his desktop computer. THORNTON used his computer for gaming and occasionally to download movies. THORNTON used the Internet to download movies through UTORRENT, a file trading program on his computer. THORNTON used UTORRENT to download older movies and "a little bit" of pornography.

c. Initially, THORNTON advised he accidentally downloaded child pornography while searching for adult pornography. THORNTON later clarified that he searched for child pornography through UTORRENT. THORNTON began searching for child pornography in 2012. THORNTON recently stopped viewing child pornography because the images and videos he viewed depicted younger children and his habit was getting "out of hand."

d. THORNTON used search terms such as "hard core teen." THORNTON denied using the search term "PTHC," but knew "PTHC" to stand for "Pre-teen Hard Core." THORNTON did not utilize the terms "yr" or "yo" for "year old" as a search term. THORNTON knew child pornography to be pornography of children under the age of 18, and he knew child pornography was illegal. THORNTON viewed child pornography because it "intrigued" him.

e. THORNTON never saved collections of child pornography on any CDs, flash drives, or any external media. THORNTON understood the UTORRENT program had a shared folder in which he downloaded his child



pornography and knew any other user of UTORRENT was able to download the child pornography he had in his shared folder. THORNTON additionally understood it was through that sharing feature that law enforcement was able to obtain child pornography from THORNTON's shared downloaded folder on his computer.

f. THORNTON was shown files of child pornography law enforcement downloaded from THORNTON's IP address which were available through his UTORRENT shared folder titled "14.jpg," "liltoy.jpg," and "(Pthc) Father Seduces 7Yo Daughter.mpg." THORNTON recognized "14.jpg" and "liltoy.jpg" as images that he downloaded and masturbated to. THORNTON stated that he did not recognize the video "(Pthc) Father Seduces 7Yo Daughter.mpg."

g. THORNTON was also shown a file of child pornography from a compact disc (CD) seized from THORNTON's residence pursuant to a federal search warrant (on July 20, 2017) titled "#(Pthc) 9Yo Jenny Blows Dad & Dog.mpg." THORNTON recognized the file as a file of child pornography he downloaded and masturbated to.

h. THORNTON denied ever touching a child inappropriately or fantasizing about such. He also denied ever filming or photographing a child for the

purposes of producing child pornography. THORNTON agreed to take a polygraph examination and indicated he would pass the examination.

i. THORNTON denied fantasizing about being the adult depicted in the child pornography videos he viewed; however, he would fantasize about being present in the room and masturbating while watching another adult engage in sexual acts with children. THORNTON denied anything would happen if he were left alone with a minor who wished to experiment with sex. THORNTON would attempt to "distance" himself from that situation. THORNTON believed his past behavior with children was a good indicator that he was not a danger to children; however, he could not provide certain assurance to the interviewing Agents that he was not a danger to children.

j. THORNTON knew child pornography was harmful to children and stated it was "true" that he participated in the exploitation of children by observing child pornography. THORNTON agreed that he was a "pedophile" and was sexually attracted to children.

k. Although THORNTON initially denied using the search term "PTHC," he admitted to using the term when searching for child pornography. THORNTON would use "15yo" as a search term when searching for child pornography. From the results, THORNTON would be able to find younger ages

that he was interested in. THORNTON specifically downloaded a collection titled "CP1." THORNTON knew "CP" to stand for "child pornography."

l. With the exception of the video "(Pthc) Father Seduces 7Yo Daughter.mpg," THORNTON was familiar with all videos and images shown to him as child pornography he downloaded. THORNTON would download a series, collection, or batch from UTORRENT to a shared folder on his computer. THORNTON kept the files until he masturbated to them, then THORNTON would delete the files.

m. THORNTON understood the basics of the file sharing system and understood that files could be shared amongst users since the software itself was a peer-to-peer software.

n. THORNTON also searched for and read child pornography literature. THORNTON would go to "www.asstr.com" to read these stories. On the website, there was a specific folder titled "under 18" which contained stories about sexual activities with children.

o. THORNTON believed there was a difference between watching child pornography in the privacy of his bedroom and actively engaging in sexual interaction with a child.

p. THORNTON provided the investigating Agents consent to search his computer and completed a form indicating such. THORNTON felt the interviewing Agents treated him fairly.

8. Later on July 20, 2017, THORNTON called the FBI Jacksonville Field Office at approximately 3:15 PM and asked to speak with me. THORNTON told me he would like to speak with the Agents who interviewed him earlier that day at his place of work. I confirmed THORNTON's correct phone number and advised that I would pass this information to SA MacDonald and SA Burton so that they could return his call. SA MacDonald called THORNTON approximately five minutes later. Based upon my subsequent discussion with SA MacDonald and SA Burton, and my review of their investigative report, I know that THORNTON provided the following information, among other things:

a. THORNTON advised that upon returning to his residence and observing the list of items seized pursuant to a federal search warrant performed at his residence earlier in the day, he noticed that Agents seized a compact disc (CD) from his bedroom. THORNTON remembered that several years ago, after downloading a series of child pornography, he copied the files to several CDs for storage. THORNTON believed the download of child pornography occurred in 2013.

b. Approximately one and one-half years ago, THORNTON gathered all his CDs containing child pornography and destroyed them in a burn barrel. THORNTON advised he must have missed one and "forgotten about the disc." THORNTON advised that when he was previously questioned in a consensual interview by SA MacDonald and SA Burton regarding THORNTON's download of child pornography, he had forgotten entirely about copying the files to CDs and their subsequent destruction.

c. SA MacDonald asked THORNTON if he would consent to a polygraph examination. THORNTON stated he would be willing to take the polygraph at any time.

9. On July 21, 2017 at approximately 12:30 PM, THORNTON came to the FBI Jacksonville Field Office and consented to take a polygraph examination. I escorted THORNTON into the facility and arranged for his meeting with the polygraph examiner, FBI SA Kevin Day. During the polygraph examination, THORNTON signed a written statement, which I have reviewed. In part of that statement, THORNTON admitted that one time in approximately 2009 while swimming in a pool with a minor child, he did touch a minor child stating:

*"Specifically, we were playing in the pool (I was in the water also), the thumb surface area of my left hand slipped and may have penetrated the crotch area of her bathing suit (her vaginal*

*area) over the fabric of the bathing suit. I cannot say for sure if I penetrated her vaginal [sic] or not. It was very brief. I immediately felt this was inappropriate touching."*

10. Upon conclusion of the polygraph examination, I escorted THORNTON to an adjacent interview room along with FBI SA Christa N. Hocutt and FBI Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Steven Burros. After being advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the interview, THORNTON agreed to a consensual interview and provided the following information, among other things:

a. THORNTON confirmed that the details of his previous conversation with the polygraph examiner, as well as his written statement, were true and complete. THORNTON experienced no issues during the polygraph examination and affirmed it was a beneficial experience.

b. J. was THORNTON's former fiancé and MINOR 1 was her daughter. THORNTON believed both of them now lived in another state and that MINOR 1 was potentially engaged or married and might have children of her own.

c. THORNTON recalled an incident in or about 2008-2009 when he was playing with MINOR 1 in the pool that used to be at his father's house in Yulee, Florida. At the time, MINOR 1 was 13 or 14 years old since she was born in 1995. THORNTON was throwing her around and "accidentally touched" the inside

of her thigh area but did not believe there was vaginal penetration. MINOR 1 was wearing a blue colored one piece bathing suit, and THORNTON believed he touched her over the fabric in her crotch area with the side of his thumb. THORNTON apologized to MINOR 1 after the incident, and although her mother was not present at the time, her grandmother might have been. THORNTON brought this up during the polygraph examination because it made him feel "uncomfortable" at the time it happened.

d. THORNTON explained that he gave MINOR 1 a back massage with other people present in the living room of his father's house in or about 2008-2009. THORNTON used a chopping motion during this massage and did not consider it to be inappropriate touching.

e. THORNTON also recalled the photographs he took of MINOR 1, which he believed to be during the same time period and same setting at the pool with her grandparents. THORNTON put the pictures on Photobucket and showed these pictures to P. A., who worked with THORNTON at the time at MICRO-ANT or JC RENFROM (phonetic). THORNTON might have also placed the pictures on Facebook. There were no additional pictures of MINOR 1 on THORNTON's computer, and he denied ever producing any nude, partially nude, or pornographic pictures or videos of MINOR 1 or any other child.

f. MINOR 1 and other children have been in THORNTON's room a couple of times to say hello, but never to spend time or conduct activities. THORNTON escorted the children out of his room because he had knives and did not think it was safe for them. THORNTON again denied ever producing any nude, partially nude, or pornographic pictures or videos of any child.

g. THORNTON understood that he failed the polygraph examination based on his discussion with the examiner and his internal realization that he was not entirely truthful. THORNTON admitted there was information he deliberately did not disclose during the polygraph examination and that he was still not being forthright with the interviewing Agents.

h. When asked again where one might find nude or partially nude pictures of MINOR 1, THORNTON replied, "Was it on a ScanDisk, maybe?" THORNTON then clarified, "A long time ago, I got video of her changing in the bathroom, but I thought all that stuff was destroyed." THORNTON used a recordable micro camera device which he placed inside the bathroom on the counter whenever he knew MINOR 1 was coming over to his house. He described the device as a working digital clock, black and silver in color, with a motion-activated camera concealed within. THORNTON did not destroy or get rid of the camera but was not sure exactly where it was currently located. THORNTON was either in his



room or outside the house when the videos recorded, but he was never in the bathroom with MINOR 1.

j. THORNTON produced multiple videos of MINOR 1 over the course of 6-12 months in or about 2008-2009 when she was approximately 13-14 years old. THORNTON confirmed the videos he took of MINOR 1 captured footage of her fully nude, partially nude, and fully clothed. THORNTON copied the videos onto his personal computer and then masturbated to the videos.

k. THORNTON affirmed that his sole purpose of placing the clock camera in the bathroom was to record videos of MINOR 1 fully nude for his own gratification and sexual pleasure. THORNTON agreed the videos constituted child pornography, that his act of recording the videos constituted production of child pornography, and that MINOR 1 qualified as a victim of child sexual exploitation.

l. THORNTON began feeling ashamed about his behavior in 2010 and thought he physically destroyed the videos by burning the various discs and storage cards in a barrel, but he admitted that he did not destroy everything. THORNTON claimed he never sold, traded, or otherwise distributed the videos he produced to anyone else. MINOR 1 never knew about the child pornography videos THORNTON produced of her, and THORNTON hoped she never finds out.

m. THORNTON was familiar with the prolific series of videos of a known child victim commonly referred to as "JENNY" giving and receiving oral sex

from a dog. THORNTON downloaded, viewed, and masturbated to these videos. THORNTON understood that "JENNY" was a real girl who was forcibly exploited, and he agreed that MINOR 1 was in the same category because of his illegal actions. THORNTON made the child pornography videos of MINOR 1 because he thought she was attractive, and he wanted to see more than he could see when she was wearing clothes or a bathing suit.

n. About a year and a half ago, THORNTON "got into child pornography again" because he was in a dark place. Downloading, viewing, and masturbating to child pornography was an issue which THORNTON admitted he needed help with but never sought counseling. He never told his father or anyone else about his child pornography problem, about using the clock camera to produce child pornography, or that he had child pornography stored on his computer and various digital media cards. He was ashamed of the child pornography videos he produced and "did not want it to get out." THORNTON affirmed that speaking with law enforcement about his child pornography problem was "helpful" and was, "ironically," the closest thing to therapy he ever experienced.

o. When asked about additional child pornography videos he might have produced, THORNTON recalled a time when MINOR 1's best friend, MINOR 2, came over to his house in Yulee, Florida. THORNTON deliberately placed the same clock camera in the bathroom to record a video of MINOR 1, and afterward he

realized that he also recorded a video of MINOR 2. THORNTON confirmed that the video captured footage of MINOR 2 fully nude and partially nude. THORNTON then copied the child pornography video of MINOR 2 to his personal computer and masturbated to it. THORNTON confirmed he could identify pictures of MINOR 1 and MINOR 2.

p. THORNTON initially denied any additional incidents of him producing child pornography, but upon further reflection, he recalled a time when he was at a cabin in Tennessee on vacation with other family members in 2009. THORNTON later clarified the cabin was actually in Virginia close to where he used to live. THORNTON placed the same clock camera on top of his bag on the bathroom counter and recorded a video of MINOR 3), taking a shower fully nude. When asked how old MINOR 3 was at the time, THORNTON replied, "17, 16, 18" as he tried to recall. THORNTON then clarified that he knew MINOR 3 was a minor at the time and was not 18.

q. THORNTON's purpose in placing the clock camera on the counter was to produce a child pornography video of MINOR 3 for his sexual gratification, and he was successful. THORNTON then copied the child pornography video of MINOR 3 to his personal computer and masturbated to it. The last time he watched the video was in 2009.

r. THORNTON said, "I told you 100 percent" of the incidents involving his production of child pornography. He also reiterated he never touched any child inappropriately in a sexual manner. The only instances where he touched any child was tickling his nieces and nephew and the aforementioned incident in the pool with MINOR 1. After that incident, THORNTON "tried to keep away" from MINOR 1, never touched her again, and was "not interested" in touching her more. THORNTON said he never considered touching other children that he knew in a sexual manner.

s. THORNTON used to live with J. and MINOR 1. At times, MINOR 1 tried to sleep in the same bed in between THORNTON and J., although THORNTON did not want her in the bed with them. He did not want to "accidentally touch" MINOR 1 inappropriately. J. made MINOR 1 a "pallet of blankets and pillows" to sleep on the floor. MINOR 1 stopped sleeping in the room with THORNTON and J. when she was approximately 11 years old. THORNTON first became attracted to MINOR 1 when she was 13-14 years old. When describing how he thought about the risk of a potential incident with MINOR 1, THORNTON said, "If I touched [MINOR 1] and it happened I would not want her to feel violated."

t. The first time THORNTON saw child pornography was after he and J. broke up in 2008. THORNTON "found" child pornography first and then

switched to watching legal adult pornography. A year and a half ago, he started looking for more child pornography by searching for the terms "14 to 16 teen hardcore," "BM something or other," and "CP1 or CP5." THORNTON downloaded "huge collections" of child pornography, and it had a different stimulation for him than adult pornography. THORNTON started looking at child pornography because he "lost [MINOR 1]" after THORNTON and J. broke up. THORNTON fantasized about MINOR 1 and wanted to "fill the void" she left in his life.

u. THORNTON came voluntarily to the FBI Jacksonville Field Office to take a polygraph examination but did not intend on being entirely truthful. Instead, he planned to conceal information about the child pornography videos he produced of MINOR 1, MINOR 2, and MINOR 3, who were the only people he filmed. THORNTON stated a final time that he never produced any other child pornography videos or pictures and never touched any child inappropriately.

v. In 2010, THORNTON "got rid of all of that stuff," referring to his collection of child pornography. He claimed he took the hard drive out of his computer and destroyed it, although he admitted he did not destroy everything. THORNTON knew that producing and viewing child pornography was illegal. THORNTON copied child pornography on five or six discs and stated there

"might have been" child pornography on the SIM card in his phone camera. It was an "accident" that he did not delete the child pornography videos he produced. THORNTON believed he still owned the clock camera. THORNTON claimed he never placed the clock camera in any other house to film other children, nor did he place it in the bedrooms of his house to film any child.

w. THORNTON believed that we treated him fairly, and he affirmed he felt better than he did one day prior because he told the truth about the child pornography videos he produced. THORNTON denied any thoughts of wanting to hurt himself or others and said that although he struggled with depression and suicidal thoughts years ago, he "beat that stuff." THORNTON agreed to tell me when he found the clock camera and understood that he could reach out to anyone in the FBI Jacksonville Field Office if he had additional information or needed help in any way.

11. On July 22, 2017, SA MacDonald and I went to THORNTON's residence at 85019 Miner Road, Yulee, Florida 32097. After greeting the interviewing Agents and being told he was not under arrest, THORNTON said, "Hey guys, come on in." Thereafter, THORNTON invited us into his bedroom and bathroom and provided the following information, among other things:

a. THORNTON had just tried to call me via the FBI Jacksonville main line and planned to call back the following Monday regarding information

about a black and silver digital clock camera, as discussed in our previous interview on July 21, 2017. THORNTON found the clock camera in his bedroom, gave it to me, and told me how it worked with the remote control accessory. THORNTON confirmed this was the same clock camera he spoke about in the previous interview that he used to produce child pornography videos of MINOR 1 and her friend, MINOR 2, in his bathroom at his residence. He also used the same clock camera to produce a child pornography video of MINOR 3 in the shower at a cabin in Virginia. The various child pornography videos THORNTON produced of these three female minor victims were from approximately 2008-2009. At that time, THORNTON knew that MINOR 1 was 13 or 14 years old, MINOR 2 was 14 or 15 years old, and MINOR 3 was 15 or 16 years old.

b. THORNTON estimated he used the clock camera to produce approximately 10-15 videos of child pornography of these three female minor victims over the course of 12-18 months in or about 2008-2009. On each occasion, the sole purpose of placing the clock camera in his bathroom, and in the bathroom of the cabin in Virginia, was to produce child pornography videos of a girl he knew to be a minor. THORNTON added that he was successful at this "almost every time" and that at times, he obtained video footage that was "even better than I expected to get." On one occasion, he obtained video of MINOR 2 naked and touching her vaginal area with her fingers for approximately five seconds while standing in front

of the mirror. THORNTON confirmed that his ultimate goal when using the clock camera to film the female minor victims was to obtain the "money shot" of the vaginal area. THORNTON later copied the child pornography videos to his computer and masturbated to the same videos.

c. Whenever THORNTON knew MINOR 1 was coming to his house, he placed the clock camera in the bathroom in a specific position on the counter or on the sill of the tub to have the best angle to capture his desired nude video footage of MINOR 1. THORNTON showed us the exact positions where he placed the clock camera and allowed us to take photographs of the positions. THORNTON also consented to be in a photograph while pointing to a position on the bathroom counter where he had placed the clock camera. THORNTON stated that nobody else knew about the clock camera or knew he used it to produce child pornography videos. He confirmed that neither his father, CHARLES nor the mother of MINOR 1 were aware of his illegal behavior. THORNTON believed the FBI would eventually talk to MINOR 1, MINOR 2, and MINOR 3, and he asked if it was possible not to tell them about his illegal actions because he "wouldn't want them to be hurt."

d. THORNTON gave us verbal and written consent to seize and search the black and silver digital clock camera with remote control, a small, yellow smiley face camera, a black camera with plastic cover, a SANDISK 8 Gigabyte (GB)



card, a SAMSUNG micro card, a DANE-ELEC 4 GB card, and a SANDISK 8 GB micro card. THORNTON stated these other various items "might" have child pornography content or been used in a similar capacity, but he was not positive. THORNTON retrieved the various memory cards from the top of his bookshelf while standing on a chair and stated he used this as a hiding place for materials he did not want others to find. THORNTON desired to give the interviewing Agents every piece of computer related digital media he found and planned to thoroughly search his bedroom for such items. The only other related item THORNTON believed he had at one time was a pen camera, but he was not sure if he still owned it. He agreed to contact us if he found additional items.

e. THORNTON stated he never produced child pornography images or videos of himself with MINOR 1 or any other child because "that would be harmful to the child." THORNTON promised us that we would not find any such content. THORNTON also reiterated that he never inappropriately touched MINOR 1 or any other child.

f. THORNTON stated, "I think I've given you 100 percent" of the items which contained child pornography contraband and "I've told you 100 percent of the truth now." THORNTON felt much better after taking the polygraph examination and speaking with the interviewing Agents multiple times, agreed that

everyone in the FBI had treated him fairly, and said, "I'm impressed with your professionalism and how you've handled this."

g. We obtained THORNTON's signature on a FD-26 Consent to Search form and a FD-597 Receipt for Property and provided THORNTON with a copy of the receipt. THORNTON retrieved a plastic bag, placed all of the items within, and gave it to me. THORNTON understood that if he found additional child pornography material or related contraband, he could not destroy it or turn it over to anyone besides the FBI, and he agreed to do so.

12. The forensic examination of all the computer media obtained from THORNTON is ongoing and has not yet been completed.

13. Based upon the foregoing facts, I have probable cause to believe that on or about September 15, 2016, in the Middle District of Florida, defendant, CHARLES CORY THORNTON, did knowingly transport and ship, and attempt to transport and ship, using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce, that is, by computer via the internet, a visual depiction, when the production of the visual depiction involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and the visual depiction was of such conduct, the visual depiction

being specifically identified in the computer file titled "14.jpg", in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(a)(1) and (b)(1).



NICHOLAS PRIVETTE, Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017, at Jacksonville, Florida.



MONTE C. RICHARDSON  
United States Magistrate Judge