



# Department of Justice

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## **COMPUTER HACKER PLEADS GUILTY TO CYBERSTALKING AND UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO A COMPUTER**

Tampa, FL - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that Joseph Campbell (24, Largo) today was charged by Information with cyberstalking and unauthorized access to a computer. Campbell faces a maximum penalty of ten years in federal prison. He is scheduled for arraignment before the Honorable Richard A. Lazzara on August 5, 2011.

According to the plea agreement filed today, in early January of 2011, Belleair Police Department was contacted by a local resident who reported that someone had hacked into their computer, stole a photograph and then improperly accessed the victim's Facebook account and posted the stolen photograph on the victim's Facebook page. The resident further reported that there was a link on their Facebook page to various public adult-oriented websites. Law enforcement authorities proceeded to investigate the complaint. During the course of the investigation, authorities were contacted by numerous other individuals who reported similar incidents to their computers and files. The hacker allegedly stole the individuals' private photographs and videos that were stored on their computers and posted the stolen files on various websites, to harass the victims and cause them emotional distress. Along with the posting onto the public websites was information on the

various victims, including what high schools they had attended and other personal identifying information.

During the course of the investigation, law enforcement authorities identified Campbell as the “hacker.” Records obtained during the investigation revealed that Campbell had hacked into approximately 19 separate women’s computers, stole personal information including computer files containing photographs and videos, and had posted them on various web sites including those previously mentioned. Specifically, between January 7, 2011 and continuing to or about January 26, 2011, in the Middle District of Florida, Campbell used his computer and internet access to harass and cause substantial emotional distress to a victim who resided in North Carolina. Further, from an unknown date but from at least in or about December, 2010 and continuing to or about January, 2011 he improperly accessed the computer files of a North Carolina victim.

This case was investigated by U.S. Secret Service and the Belleair Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda C. Kaiser.