



Department of Justice

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NEW HAMPSHIRE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGE OF FAILURE TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDER

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces today that Kevin Robert Leblanc (48, New Hampshire) has pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Jacksonville to a federal charge of failure to register as sex offender in Florida after traveling from New Hampshire. Leblanc faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Leblanc has been in custody since his arrest on November 9, 2010 in Lake City, Florida. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

According to court documents, on July 29, 1999, Leblanc was convicted of rape and abuse of a child under 16 and indecent assault and battery on a child under 14, in the Worcester Superior Court, Worcester, Massachusetts. On or about February 6, 1993, Leblanc sexually assaulted a minor female at a residence in Massachusetts.

According to court documents, on November 9, 2009, Leblanc executed a sex offender registration form in Concord, New Hampshire. Among other things, this form advised Leblanc of his obligation to report a change of residence to another state both to the authorities in New Hampshire as well as in his new state of residence. On December 11, 2009, Leblanc walked away from a halfway house at the Concord State Penitentiary, and warrants for escape and failure to register as a sex offender were issued for him.

According to court documents, on November 9, 2010, Leblanc was arrested in Lake City, Florida after being caught shoplifting merchandise from a retail store. Upon his arrest, he provided a false name to law enforcement officers. Fingerprint analysis revealed his true identity, and Lake City police determined that Leblanc was a sex offender with two outstanding arrest warrants.

According to court documents, on November 18, 2010, a Columbia County Sheriff's Office detective interviewed Leblanc. Leblanc stated, among other things, that he had been in the state of Florida for about three weeks, and that he arrived with the carnival after they traveled from Lumberton, North Carolina. He indicated that he walked away from a halfway house in New Hampshire in late 2009, and that he traveled around the country before coming to Florida in October 2010, spending time in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. Leblanc stated that he had been living in New Hampshire for three years prior to that incident, but registered as a sex offender for the first time in October 2008.

According to court documents, after establishing residence in Florida in October 2010, Leblanc was required to register and keep his registration current with the State of Florida under the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act ("SORNA"), because Leblanc is a sex offender under SORNA. Records checks confirmed that Leblanc had never registered in Florida as a sex offender prior to his arrest on November 9, 2010.

This case was investigated by the United States Marshals Service, the Lake City (Florida) Police Department, the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, and the New Hampshire State Police. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative

launched in May 2006 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.projectsafekidhood.gov.