

NEWS

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West New York Man Pleads Guilty to Traveling to Illinois To Have Sex with 13-year-old Victim

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TRENTON – A West New York man pleaded guilty today to federal charges for traveling from New Jersey to Illinois to have sexual relations with a 13-year-old Illinois victim, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Eric Duprey, 36, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Peter G. Sheridan to a one - count Information charging him with interstate travel to engage in illicit sexual activity with a minor. Judge Sheridan scheduled sentencing for June 2. The defendant has been detained in federal custody since his April 2009 initial appearance in federal court.

Duprey was originally charged by criminal Complaint on April 22, 2009, with one count of traveling interstate to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor, and one count of possession of child pornography.

At his plea hearing, Duprey admitted that he spent several months chatting over the Internet with a victim who he believed to be 15-years-old. Duprey further acknowledged that his purpose in corresponding with his victim was to entice his victim to engage in sexual activity with him. Ultimately, Duprey was successful.

Duprey admitted to traveling from New Jersey to Illinois twice, once in February 2009 and a second time in April 2009. On both occasions, Duprey and his victim spent several days in an Illinois hotel, where Duprey repeatedly sexually abused his victim and took multiple photographs of the abuse.

“Our most important concern here are the victims,” said Acting Special Agent in Charge Kevin Cruise. “The FBI Victim Assistance Program is involved and trying to mitigate the damage Mr. Duprey caused by tracking down any potential other victims and providing necessary services. In the meantime, it is a small comfort to know that he will be in a place where he is unable to hurt anyone else. I commend all who brought this matter to its successful conclusion.”

The investigation into Duprey began in early April 2009, when the FBI received information that Duprey was trafficking in child pornography. During the execution of a federal search warrant at his West New York home, law enforcement officers discovered a “Sex Slave Contract” between Duprey and his victim dated April 1, 2009. They also recovered a computer itinerary showing that Duprey had traveled to Illinois on April 1, 2009, and returned to New Jersey on April 4, 2009. Also seized was a computer disk which contained images of sexually explicit contact between Duprey and his victim.

The charge to which Duprey pleaded guilty carries a maximum statutory penalty of 30 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Fishman credited Special Agents with the FBI, under the direction of Acting special Agent in Charge Kevin B. Cruise, with the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant United States Attorney Lee Vartan of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Newark.

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Defense attorney: Paul Brickfield, Esq. River Edge