



Department of Justice

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WESTERVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 180 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Son was sentenced in September to 80 months for transporting child porn

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Christopher Gould, 51, of Westerville was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 180 months imprisonment for taking photographs of a ten-year old girl in sexually explicit poses. He was also sentenced to be placed under court-ordered supervision, known as supervised release, for the rest of his life. His son, Adam Gould, 25, pleaded guilty on April 16, 2009, to one count of transportation of child pornography. Adam Gould was sentenced in September to 80 months imprisonment followed by five years of supervised release.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Brian Moskowitz, ICE special agent in charge, and Westerville Police Chief Joseph Morbitzer announced the sentence handed down today by U.S. District Judge Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.

Christopher Gould pleaded guilty on April 23, 2009 to one count of sexual exploitation of children by producing child pornography. ICE agents and Westerville police officers executed a federal search warrant at Gould's home on Oct. 29, 2008. While there, agents seized two laptop computers belonging to Adam Gould. Forensic examiners found more than 2,500 pictures and 78 movies of child pornography on the two computers.

Agents also seized a briefcase containing the photographs that Christopher Gould admitted taking, and a computer belonging to Christopher Gould. Forensic analysis of this computer uncovered more than 30 sexually explicit images of the same juvenile and evidence that there had been other photos that Christopher Gould had deleted.

“This sentence underscores the particularly heinous nature of these crimes,” said Brian Moskowitz, special agent in charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in Detroit. “ICE relentlessly pursues predators who sexually abuse children, whether that abuse is physical in nature or if it's accomplished by exploiting their images. Our agents will continue to police cyber space to investigate and bring to justice those individuals who exploit the most vulnerable in our society, our children.”

Stewart commended the cooperative investigation by ICE agents and Westerville Police officers, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael Hunter and Deborah Solove, who prosecuted the case.

This case was investigated under Operation Predator, which is a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 11,600 individuals.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

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