

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

*United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy*

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Alessandra P. Serano (619) 546-8104

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY – November 16, 2012

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that today United States District Judge Roger T. Benitez sentenced Robert Lee Williams to serve 240 months in federal prison, followed by a lifetime of supervised release based on his convictions after trial for receipt and possession of images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252(a)(2) and (4). Judge Benitez also ordered Williams to register as a sex offender.

Williams was convicted after a jury trial in June 2012. In April 2011, Williams applied to be a police officer with the San Diego Police Department. He completed a pre-employment questionnaire where he admitted that he had previously viewed child pornography. Based upon that information, the San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force investigated Williams' involvement in child pornography. In May 2011, during the execution of a search warrant at his residence, Williams was arrested for possession of child pornography after he admitted to viewing and possessing child pornography. Agents seized one computer and two external hard drives in his residence with over 600 sexually explicit images of minors as young as two years old. At the time of his arrest, Williams was a freelance massage therapist.

This case stems from an investigation by the San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), whose members include the San Diego Police Department, the Chula Vista Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, the United States Attorney's Office, the San Diego District Attorney's Office, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the United States Marshals Service, the Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the National City Police Department, the La Mesa Police Department, the Oceanside Police Department, the El Cajon Police Department, the San Diego State University Police Department, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, and the Riverside County District Attorney's Office. For additional information regarding ICAC, please visit www.sdicac.org.

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 the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.usdoj.gov/psc. For more information about internet safety education, please visit www.usdoj.gov/psc and click on the tab "resources."

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 11cr3529BEN

Robert Lee Williams

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2) and (4) (Receipt and Possession of Child Pornography)

AGENCIES

San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children
San Diego Police Department