



Department of Justice

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Northern District of Georgia

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FORMER DEPUTY SHERIFF SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Gainesville, GA - MILTON SCOTT PRUITT, 41, of Forsyth County, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge William C. O'Kelley on charges of receiving child pornography.

Acting United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said of the case, "This defendant was once entrusted with protecting the public's safety as a law enforcement officer but chose to violate that public trust by victimizing innocent children when he used the internet to receive child pornography on his home computer. To make matters worse, on at least one occasion, he also used a Forsyth County Sheriff's computer to view child pornography while he was working. By prosecuting child pornography offenders such as Defendant PRUITT, this office is working to make our community safer for our children. This sentence underscores the substantial consequences for people who possess images of children being sexually exploited."

PRUITT was sentenced to 8 years, 2 months in prison to be followed by 10 years of supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system. PRUITT was convicted by a jury on July 22, 2009, following a three-day trial.

According to Acting United States Attorney Yates and the evidence presented during PRUITT's trial: While working the overnight shift on March 15, 2007, PRUITT, a sergeant supervising other patrol deputies, used his in-car laptop computer to access child pornography stored as evidence in a Forsyth County detective's computer file. PRUITT accessed and viewed ten images of young children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. PRUITT's illicit computer activity was discovered several weeks later by an employee of Forsyth County's information technology department, who reported PRUITT's conduct to the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office referred the case to the GBI. During a subsequent interview with a GBI agent, PRUITT admitted that he accessed and viewed the pornographic images because he was "just curious."

Following his admission, GBI seized PRUITT's home computer and conducted a forensic

examination of its hard drive. The examination revealed more than a hundred images of child pornography and numerous Internet searches for such images.

The case was prosecuted as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse, was launched. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices around the country, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov.

This case was investigated by the GBI and the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office.

Assistant United States Attorneys Jill E. Steinberg and Brent Alan Gray prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Quillian Yates, Acting United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.