

Department of Justice

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Two Tuscola Men Indicted on Child Pornography Charges

Urbana, Ill. – Indictments have been returned charging two Tuscola, Ill., men with child pornography offenses: Parrish Kappes, 46, and Zachary M. Vincent 21. The men, previously charged by criminal complaint, have each been charged in separate cases.

The charges were investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations; the Champaign Police Department; the Urbana Police Department; the Douglas County Sheriff's Office; and the East Central Illinois Cyber Crimes Working Group.

Kappes, of the 700 block of Sunset Drive, Tuscola, Ill., was arrested on Oct. 16, 2012. U.S. Magistrate Judge David G. Bernthal ordered that Kappes remained detained in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. The indictment returned today charges Kappes with three counts of distribution of child pornography in August and September 2012, and one count of possession of child pornography on Oct. 15, 2012.

Vincent, of the 700 block of N. Carico Street, Tuscola, Ill., was also arrested on Oct. 16, 2012, and appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Bernthal, who ordered that Vincent remain detained in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. The indictment returned today charges Vincent with two counts of distribution of child pornography in September 2012, one count of receiving child pornography, and one count of possession of child pornography, both on Oct. 15, 2012.

If convicted, the statutory penalty for each count of distribution and of receipt of child pornography is a mandatory minimum of five years in prison to 20 years in prison and a term of supervised release of up to life following any term of imprisonment. If a defendant has a prior child sex abuse or child pornography conviction, the statutory penalty is not less than 15 years and up to 40 years in prison. For possession of child pornography, the penalty is up to 10 years in prison.

Each indictment seeks forfeiture of computers and related materials allegedly used to commit or promote the offenses.

(More)

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; each defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by U.S. 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.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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