



U.S. Department of Justice

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SYCAMORE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and THOMAS J. KNEIR, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, today made the following announcement:

DENNIS C. EICHELBERGER, 54 (DOB: 06/03/49), formerly of 456 S. California, Apt. A., Sycamore, Illinois, pled guilty today in federal court in Rockford to transporting and shipping child pornography across state lines via computer.

In pleading guilty, Eichelberger admitted that between August 21, 2001 and September 22, 2001, he knowingly transported child pornography in interstate commerce, including 60 computer files of images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Eichelberger admitted that beginning in 2001, he used a variety of screen names on his internet service to view, send, and receive child pornography. Further, Eichelberger admitted he was a member of several groups of internet users who established email groups for the purpose of trading child pornography by sending child pornography over the internet to other persons with the expectation of receiving child pornography from those persons in return. Eichelberger also admitted that beginning in 2001, and continuing until June 2003, he videotaped images of child pornography from his WebTV internet system so that he could send the images via the internet. Eichelberger further admitted he obtained a printer in August 2002, and began printing images of child pornography off of the internet.

On June 6, 2003, while executing a search warrant at Eichelberger's residence, Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation recovered a videotape containing approximately three hours of child pornography, including both still images and movies, as well as printed images, depicting children ranging in age from toddlers to prepubescent children engaged in sexually explicit conduct with adults.

Eichelberger was arrested on September 4, 2003, by Special Agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and has since been held in federal custody without bond. Sentencing for Eichelberger will be conducted on June 11, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. Eichelberger faces a maximum potential sentence of up to 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. If convicted, the actual sentence will be determined by a United States District Court Judge, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by the Rockford office of the FBI. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney MONICA V. MALLORY.

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