



Department of Justice

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LAKE CHARLES MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Defendant ordered to pay \$50,000.00 fine and will be under court supervision for life

LA FAYETTE, La. – Phillip M. Ward, 67, of Lake Charles, La., was sentenced by United States District Judge Donald E. Walter to spend 17 ½ years in federal prison for receiving child pornography, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today. Ward also received lifetime supervised release at the conclusion of his prison sentence. In addition, Ward was ordered to pay a \$50,000 fine.

According to court documents, Ward was involved in an internet file sharing program called Lime Wire, which allows a large group of computers to connect through the internet. After obtaining the necessary software to access Lime Wire, one can then search for files on the other computers that are also accessing Lime Wire. A computer which contains the Lime Wire software typically has a shared files folder. The files that a person wishes to share with other computers while on Lime Wire are placed in the shared files folder.

During an undercover operation by the Louisiana State Police in 2009, undercover officers began obtaining child pornography from the defendant's shared files folder while using the Lime Wire software. Ward admitted to obtaining child pornography using Lime Wire on a computer located at his residence in Lake Charles, La.

“This conviction underlines the fact that there will be no refuge for child sexual predators who believe that they can pursue their perverse behavior with impunity online. Our office will continue to devote its efforts to prosecuting those who commit such exploitative crimes,” said United States Attorney Stephanie Finley.

Special Agent in Charge of ICE’s Office in New Orleans, Raymond R. Parmer, Jr., stated: “All children have an absolute right to grow up free from the fear of sexual exploitation. Our agents will continue to police cyberspace and target those who travel abroad to exploit one of the most vulnerable segments of our society – our children.”

The case was investigated by the Louisiana State Police along with U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney J. Luke Walker.

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