



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Carter M. Stewart
Southern District of Ohio

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CONTACT: Fred Alverson
614-469-5715

EAST COLUMBUS MAN SENTENCED TO 120 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

COLUMBUS – Jeffrey A. Ables, 43, of Columbus’s east side, was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 120 months imprisonment after investigators found him sharing over the Internet videos and images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and members of the Franklin County Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force announced the sentence imposed today by Senior United States District Judge George C. Smith.

According to a statement of facts presented during the plea hearing in December, a Franklin County Sheriff's Detective was engaged in an Internet investigation in October, 2009 and observed an Internet Protocol (IP) address as a download candidate for suspected child pornography. Further investigation revealed that the subscriber information for that IP address came back to Ables’s residence.

Investigators obtained a search warrant for Ables’s house and seized a laptop computer. Forensic analysis of the computer discovered approximately 70 videos and 150 images of child pornography.

Ables was previously convicted of a sex crime for soliciting sex from an undercover officer posing as a 14-year old 2007 in Hamilton County, Ohio.

Judge Smith also sentenced Ables to be placed under court supervision for five years after his release from prison.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States 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.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

Agencies participating in the Franklin County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, led by Franklin County Sheriff Jim Karnes’ office, include the police departments from Westerville, Upper Arlington and Columbus.

Stewart commended the task force officers who investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hunter, who prosecuted the case.

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