



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Carter M. Stewart
Southern District of Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2010
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ohs>

CONTACT: Fred Alverson
614-469-5715

BEXLEY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING MORE THAN 500 IMAGES OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

COLUMBUS – Shane R. Ostrowski, 39, of Bexley, pleaded guilty in United States District Court here today to one count of possession of child pornography after investigators found more than 500 images of child pornography on a laptop computer he owned.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in Ohio and Michigan announced the plea entered today before U.S. District Judge Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.

According to a statement of facts read at Ostrowski's hearing, ICE agents executed a series of search warrants related to several defendants that had been chatting online between September of 2008 and January 2009. The defendants, including Ostrowski, were using an online program to distribute digital images containing child pornography to a large group of child pornography collectors.

Forensic analysis showed that in a series of chats involving Ostrowski on March 8, 2008, several hundred images of child pornography were traded back and forth, including numerous images of prepubescent to teenage females posing in a sexually explicit manner engaged in sexual intercourse or oral sex with other minors or even or adult males. ICE agents were able to trace back the IP addresses to Ostrowski's residence and business.

On October 27, 2009, federal search warrants were executed at Ostrowski's residence and place of employment and his computers were seized. A forensic examination was performed on Ostrowski's laptop computer. The examiner found several chat logs from March 8, 2008, with an accompanying approximate 500 digital images that were clearly child pornography, including images of prepubescent female engaged in anal and vaginal sex with adult males.

Possession of child pornography is punishable by up to ten years imprisonment, followed by a minimum of five years and up to life of supervised release. Ostrowski will also be required to register as a sex offender in any location where he lives, works or goes to school. Judge Sargus will set a date for sentencing.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, 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 identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov/.

Stewart commended the ICE agents who investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hunter, who is prosecuting the case.

This investigation is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 12,000 individuals.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com> <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

#