



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476

(215) 861-8200

November 9, 2010

READING MEN CHARGED WITH SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS

Case is first of its kind in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

An indictment¹ was unsealed today charging Paul Sewell with four counts of sex trafficking of minors and of adults by force, and three counts of production of child pornography, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger, Berks County District Attorney John T. Adams, and FBI Special Agent-in-Charge George Venizelos. Co-defendant Michael Johnson also was charged with one count of sex trafficking. The indictment was filed under seal on November 4, 2010. Sewell was arrested November 4, 2010; Johnson was arrested today.

According to the indictment, Sewell ran a large prostitution ring in the Reading area through which he hired females, including minors, to work for him. Sewell, who called himself "God," insisted that the girls who worked for him be tattooed with "God" and a nickname he gave them as a "working name." He also photographed the girls so that he could feature them on a website called "cashmoneybrothersescorts.com," on which he advertised them as escorts. Sewell took sexually explicit pictures of the girls to email to potential clients. Sewell also subjected some females to physical violence to force them to continue working for the venture. Johnson often drove the girls who worked for the business to jobs, and lived in Sewell's residence.

"Child exploitation is among the most serious crimes we prosecute," said Memeger. "According to the indictment, this defendant abused his victims through the prostitution ring and further degraded them by branding them with a tattoo. The FBI and the Berks County District Attorney's detectives have successfully shut down the defendant's criminal enterprise."

"Paul Sewell's prostitution of minors exemplifies the seriousness of the prostitution ring that was uncovered by my office," said Adams. "Using minors in the sex trade should never take place and only the most severe sanctions available are appropriate."

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR YEAR OF BIRTH
Paul Sewell	Reading, PA	45
Michael Johnson	Reading, PA	40

If convicted, Sewell faces a maximum possible sentence of life imprisonment and a \$1.75 million fine; Johnson faces a maximum possible sentence of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Berks County Detectives with the assistance of the Berks County District Attorney's Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Morgan-Kelly.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: PATTY HARTMAN
Media Contact
215-861-8525**

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