



Department of Justice

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Western District of Texas

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AMARILLO MAN SENTENCED FOR PROSTITUTION SCHEME INVOLVING MINOR

Today in Midland, 25-year-old Brian Phea was sentenced to 312 months in federal prison for his role in an internet prostitution scheme announced United States Attorney Robert Pitman.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Robert A. Junell ordered that Phea be placed under supervised release for a period of 25 years after completing his prison term.

On July 10, 2012, a federal jury convicted Phea of one count of sex trafficking of children and one count of promotion of a business enterprise involving prostitution. Evidence presented during trial revealed that in March 2012, Phea purchased a bus ticket for a 14-year-old female and convinced her to travel from Houston to visit him in Amarillo. Subsequently, Phea drove the minor female to Odessa, where he advertised on the web that the female would provide sex for money. The female began receiving messages and calls for prostitution/sexual performance on a cell phone provided to her by Phea. When the minor female told Phea she did not want to participate, Phea physically struck her, rupturing her ear drum, and tased her on the chest. Testimony also revealed that Phea forced his victim to have sexual intercourse with an unknown man in exchange for \$140. Following the incident, Phea contacted his co-defendant in this case, 27-year-old Trevin Rounds, and requested that Rounds transport the minor female back to Houston. On March 17, 2012, law enforcement officers in Eden, Texas, stopped Rounds and the minor female for a routine traffic violation at which time they obtained consent to search the minor female's cell phone and discovered information pertaining to the prostitution operation.

Rounds, who remains in federal custody, is scheduled to be sentenced at 2:00pm on October 3, 2012 before Judge Junell. On July 13, 2012, a federal jury convicted him of one count of possession of child pornography and one count of coercion of a minor. He faces a minimum mandatory ten years and up to life in federal prison.

This investigation was conducted by the Texas Department of Public Safety together with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI), Odessa Police Department and the Concho County Sheriff's Office. This matter is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Austin Berry.

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