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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Hon. Michael A. Hammer, U.S.M.J.
	:	
v.	:	Mag. No. 18-4132
	:	
CHRISTOPHER GARDINER	:	<b>CRIMINAL COMPLAINT</b>
	:	
	:	

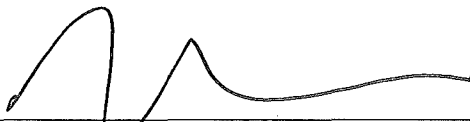
I, Monica Cueto, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

**SEE ATTACHMENT A**

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

**SEE ATTACHMENT B**


continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Cueto, Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

August 27, 2018  
Date

at Essex County, New Jersey  
County and State

Honorable Michael A. Hammer  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Name and Title of Judicial Officer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Judicial Officer

**ATTACHMENT A**

**COUNT ONE**  
**(Distribution of Child Pornography)**

On or about March 21, 2018 through on or about June 23, 2018, in Union County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

CHRISTOPHER GARDINER

did knowingly distribute child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), that had been mailed, and using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce, shipped, and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(2).

**COUNT TWO**  
**(Possession of Child Pornography)**

On or about August 27, 2018, in Union County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

CHRISTOPHER GARDINER

did knowingly possess material that contained at least three images of child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), which images had been mailed, shipped, and transported using any means or facility of interstate and foreign commerce and in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, and that were produced using materials that had been mailed, and shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 2.

## **ATTACHMENT B**

I, Monica Cueto, am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"). I am fully familiar with the facts set forth herein based on my own investigation, my discussions with other law enforcement officers, and my review of reports, documents, and other items of evidence. Where statements of others are related herein, they are related in substance and in part. Because this Affidavit is being submitted for the sole purpose of establishing probable cause to support the issuance of a complaint, I have not set forth each and every fact that I know concerning this investigation. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date, I am asserting that it took place on or about the date alleged.

### **Background**

1. At all times relevant to this Complaint, defendant Christopher Gardiner ("GARDINER") was a resident of Cranford, New Jersey.

### **The Investigation**

2. In or around March 2018, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati, Ohio, Field Office, commenced an investigation to identify subjects involved in the online sexual exploitation of minors. As part of this investigation, an undercover agent ("UCA") with the FBI assumed an online profile.

3. On or about March 21, 2018, the UCA received an invitation to a chat on the KIK messenger application that was taking place in a specific group (hereinafter referred to as "GROUP-1"). GROUP-1's name sufficiently identified the member's common interest in exchanging child pornography.

4. On or about April 7, 2018, the UCA observed an individual, who was subsequently determined to be GARDINER, post three videos, two of which constituted child pornography in GROUP-1. Descriptions of the videos are as follows:

**"IMG\_0047"** is a video showing a pre-pubescent female, approximately seven to nine years old, naked from the waist down, being penetrated by a pre-pubescent male child from behind. The video also shows the children performing oral sex on each other.

**"IMG\_0050"** is a video showing a pre-pubescent female child, naked from the waist down, being penetrated by an adult male penis.

5. On or about April 7, 2018, the UCA messaged GARDINER and began a dialogue. GARDINER introduced himself as "Kris," but provided other

identifiers that were inaccurate. GARDINER then directly sent a video depicting child pornography to the UCA. The video is described as follows:

**"IMG\_0073"** shows a pre-pubescent male child, approximately six to eight years old, exposing his penis while an adult female performs oral sex on him.

6. On or about April 6, 2018, GARDINER sent the UCA another video depicting child pornography. The video is described as follows:

**"IMG\_0078"** is a video that shows a pre-pubescent female child, approximately five to seven years old, who is performing oral sex on a pre-pubescent male child, who is also approximately five to seven years old.

7. On or about April 9, 2018, GARDINER publicly posted a link in GROUP-1 that redirected to a site containing approximately 85 gigabytes of images and videos, most of which constituted child pornography.

8. GARDINER posted additional similar videos constituting child pornography to GROUP-1 on or about April 13, 2018, April 29, 2018, May 10, 2018, June 9, 2018, and June 23, 2018.

9. On or about April 11, 2018, a subpoena was served on KIK for subscriber information and IP logs associated with GARDINER'S account. According to KIK's response, the account had only been logged into from IP address 100.8.19.218 between on or about March 13, 2018 and on or about April 12, 2018. KIK also disclosed that the email account used to register GARDINER'S account was "lonewolf6955@gmail.com."

10. On or about April 13, 2018, a subpoena was served on the company responsible for providing internet access requesting subscriber information the above-referenced IP address. A response to that subpoena revealed that the IP address was registered to GARDINER'S home address and had been from on or about March 8, 2018 to at least on or about June 4, 2018.

11. On or about July 30, 2018, a subpoena was served on Google, Inc., for subscriber information associated with "lonewolf6955@gmail.com." According to Google's response, the account holder's name is "Chris G.," the account has a recovery address of "lonewolf6955@yahoo.com," and the Gmail account had last been accessed on or about July 26, 2018 via IP address 100.8.19.218.

12. An open-internet search for GARDINER'S KIK username revealed a profile on a dating website under the same name. The user described himself as a 35 year old, six foot tall, male from Cranford, New Jersey, who works as a

heating and air conditioning technician. A search of the New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles database confirmed that the height, age, and location information contained on the dating website matched GARDINER'S actual information. A search of the Department of Labor database confirmed that the employment information contained on the dating website matched GARDINER'S actual information.

13. During the investigation, I also learned that on or about January 19, 2007, GARDINER was charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child/Distribution of Child Pornography by the New Jersey State Police. According to the reports, GARDINER engaged an undercover officer in a chatroom and subsequently sent the undercover officer multiple videos of child pornography. Notably, in 2007, GARDINER utilized the same email address, "lonewolf6955@yahoo.com," that he now uses as a recovery address for the email address at issue in this case, "lonewolf6955@gmail.com." GARDINER pled guilty to the charged offense on March 29, 2007 and was sentenced to a term of three years in State Prison, which was suspended, and GARDINER was required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Megan's Law.

14. On or about August 27, 2018, pursuant to a search warrant for GARDINER'S residence, agents conducted an on-scene forensic preview of GARDINER'S electronic devices. See Mag. No. 18-8169 (LDW). During that preview, agents located over five items of suspected child pornography, including the following:

**"\_pthc\_Falkovideo\_Custom\_8\_6yo 1st Anal\_06m44s - HiRes\_\*\*\* anal 2014 opva preteen loli 11yo 10yo pedo mom family.avi"** is a six minute and forty-six second (6:46) color video. This video is a collage of a naked adult male and what appears to be prepubescent female engaged in sexual acts.

**"3b8e8eb6-acc9-4532-bc5f-74d93389d41c.mp4"** is a one minute and nineteen second (1:19) color video containing what appears to be a prepubescent female engaged in sexual acts.

15. After being advised of his Miranda rights, GARDINER agreed to speak to the Agents. In the audio-recorded statement, GARDINER confirmed ownership of the electronic device that was found in his bedroom and contained the two videos referenced above. GARDINER confirmed that the KIK account utilizing username "shadowfox27" belonged to him, but he denied ownership of the KIK account utilizing username "shadowfox272" (the offending account). However, GARDINER acknowledged ownership of the "lonewolf6955@gmail.com," which the "shadowfox272" KIK account was registered to.

16. Agents also located multiple videos constituting child pornography under GARDINER'S user profile on the family computer.

17. Based upon my education, training and experience, and my discussions with other law enforcement officers, and to the best of my knowledge, the videos described above were transported and transmitted in interstate commerce because they were transmitted by GARDINER to the UCA, who was located outside the District of New Jersey, and GARDINER transmitted the videos via an Internet-based application.