



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Carter M. Stewart

Southern District of Ohio

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CONTACT: FRED ALVERSON
PHONE: (614) 469-5715

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ohs>

RICHLAND COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR ENTICING A MINOR TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTS

COLUMBUS – John H. Szewczyk, 28, of Lexington, Ohio was sentenced in United States District Court here today to ten years imprisonment followed by 15 years of supervised release for using the internet to try and persuade a girl under the age of 18 to engage in sexual activity.

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.

Szewczyk pleaded guilty on May 12, 2010 to one count of enticement. In January, 2010, Szewczyk sent an instant message from his home computer to an undercover online investigator thinking the investigator was a 38-year old woman and her 15-year old daughter. During the course of the online conversation, Szewczyk admitted he was on probation for being convicted of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, but still made plans to meet the juvenile at her house. When he arrived at the Westerville house where he thought the girl lived, task force officers approached him and searched him. They found that he was carrying condoms and a Lady Gaga “Fame Monster” compact disc which the undercover officer had requested Szewczyk bring with him. A federal complaint was filed against Szewczyk on February 4, 2010. He has been in custody since then.

Szewczyk was convicted in Crawford County Common Pleas Court in 2007 for unlawful sex with a minor for impregnating a 14-year old girl he met on the Internet.

After his release from prison, Szewczyk must register as a sex offender anywhere he lives, works or goes to school. He will also have to provide a DNA sample and undergo periodic drug testing.

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.projectsafchildhood.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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