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Newport News Man sentenced to 20 years for Receiving Child Pornography

(Newport News, VA) - Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that David Andrew Merritt, 41, was sentenced today to 20 years for Receiving Child Pornography by the Honorable Raymond A. Jackson. Upon the completion of his sentence at the Bureau of Prisons, Merritt will be on a lifetime of supervised release.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation executed a federal search warrant at the home of Merritt based upon information obtained from the Manchester Police Department in Manchester, New Hampshire. Agents seized computers from Merritt's home and they were examined by Forensic Computer Expert Rudy Jones of the United States Attorneys Office. During an interview with FBI agents, Merritt admitted to communicating with a man in New Hampshire over the internet and receiving child pornography from the man. He further admitted that he sent the man bikini swimsuits and thong underwear for the man's young daughter. In return, the man would take pictures of the child and send them to Merritt in Virginia. Also during the interview with agents, Merritt admitted to sexually assaulting a six-year old child in Newport News. Merritt was prosecuted for those acts and sentenced to serve four years in a Virginia prison for sexually molesting the child and taking sexually explicit photos of the child.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Lisa R. McKeel prosecuted this case on behalf of the United States.