

1 ERIC GRANT
2 United States Attorney
3 J. DOUGLAS HARMAN
4 Assistant United States Attorney
5 501 I Street, Suite 10-100
6 Sacramento, CA 95814
7 Telephone: (916) 554-2700

5 Attorneys for Plaintiff
6 United States of America



SEALED

7 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8
9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 PAUL JOSEPH RICHARDS,

14 Defendant.

15 CASE NO. 2:26-cr-0014 DJC

16
17 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2) – Receipt of Visual
18 Depictions of a Minor Engaging in Sexually Explicit
19 Conduct; 18 U.S.C. § 2253(a) – Criminal Forfeiture

18 **I N D I C T M E N T**

19 The Grand Jury charges: T H A T

20 PAUL JOSEPH RICHARDS,

21 defendant herein, between on or about December 19, 2023, through on or about April 2, 2025, in the
22 County of Sacramento, State and Eastern District of California, did knowingly receive one or more
23 visual depictions using a means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce, and which had been
24 shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, and which contained materials
25 which had been so transported, by any means including by computer, where the production of such
26 visual depictions involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct as defined in Title
27 18, United States Code, Section 2256(2), and the visual depiction was of such conduct, all in violation of
28 Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2).

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1 **FORFEITURE ALLEGATION: [18 U.S.C. § 2253(a) - Criminal Forfeiture]**

2 1. Upon conviction of the offense alleged in this Indictment, defendant PAUL JOSEPH
3 RICHARDS shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2253(a),
4 any and all matter which contains visual depictions produced, transported, mailed, shipped, or received
5 in violation thereof; any property, real or personal, constituting or traceable to gross profits or other
6 proceeds the defendant obtained as a result of said violation; and any property, real or personal, used or
7 intended to be used to commit and to promote the commission of such violation, or any property
8 traceable to such property, including but not limited to the following:

9 a. iPhone 13 with IMEIs 358265580720628 & 35826580834023
10 b. Green Custom Gaming Computer Tower containing a Team Group hard drive
11 c. Samsung HD103SI 1 TB external hard drive with serial number
12 S20XJDWS825176.

13 2. If any property subject to forfeiture, as a result of the offense alleged in this Indictment
14 for which defendant is convicted:

15 a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence,
16 b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party,
17 c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court,
18 d. has been substantially diminished in value, or
19 e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without
20 difficulty,

21 it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2253(b), incorporating 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), to

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1 seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendant, up to the value of the property subject to
2 forfeiture.

3 A TRUE BILL.
4

5 **/s/ Signature on file w/AUSA**
6

7 FOREPERSON

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10 ERIC GRANT
11 United States Attorney
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No. 2:26-cr-00014 DJC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Eastern District of California

Criminal Division

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

PAUL JOSEPH RICHARDS

INDICTMENT

VIOLATION(S): 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2) – Receipt of Visual Depictions of Minors Engaging in Sexually Explicit Conduct; 18 U.S.C. § 2253(a) – Criminal Forfeiture

A true bill,

/s/ Signature on file w/AUSA

*-----
Foreman.*

*Filed in open court this 5th day
of February, A.D. 2026*

/s/ Alexandra Waldrop

*-----
Clerk.*

*Bail, **No Bail Warrant Pending Hearing***

Chi Soo Kim

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CHI SOO KIM
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE*

GPO 863 525

United States v. Paul Richards
Penalties for Indictment

COUNT 1:

VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2) – Receipt of Child Pornography

PENALTIES: Mandatory minimum of 5 years in prison and up to 20 years in prison; or
Fine of up to \$250,000; or both fine and imprisonment
Supervised release of at least 5 years and up to life
Payment of Restitution

SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS: \$100 (mandatory on each count)

\$5,000 (JVTA)

\$35,000 (18 U.S.C. § 2259A if not indigent).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION:

VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 2253(a) – Criminal Forfeiture

PENALTIES: As stated in the charging document