

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Middle District of Florida

United States of America
v.
RICHARD HOYT CRAWFORD, JR.

Case No.
6:18-mj-1137

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of February 28, 2018 in the county of Seminole in the Middle District of Florida, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section
18 U.S.C. § 2422(b)

Offense Description
Attempted enticement of a minor.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

Continued on the attached sheet.

Handwritten signature of J. Steven McElyea

Complainant's signature

J. Steven McElyea, Task Force Agent

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 2/28/2018

Handwritten signature of Karla R. Spaulding

Judge's signature

City and state: Orlando, Florida

KARLA R. SPAULDING, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

STATE OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 6:18-mj- 1137

COUNTY OF SEMINOLE

AFFIDAVIT

I, J. Steven McElyea, after being duly sworn, depose and state:

1. I am currently in my twenty third year of employment with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, and I have been assigned as a task force officer with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force in Orlando since July 2005. I have been investigating crimes against children from November 1999 to the present and participate in the investigations of sex crimes, child exploitation, child pornography and computer crimes. Part of my responsibilities include investigating possible criminal violations of Title 18 of the United States Code.

2. I have received specialized training in the investigations of sex crimes, child exploitation, child pornography, and computer crimes. I have participated in investigations of persons suspected of violating federal child pornography laws, including Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2251 and 2252A. I have also participated in investigations of persons suspected of violating federal laws pertaining to the enticement of minors under Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b).

3. I have participated in various training courses for the investigation and enforcement of federal child pornography laws in which computers are used as the means for receiving, transmitting, and storing child pornography.

Additionally, I have been involved in authoring and participated in the execution of search warrants involving searches and seizures of computers, computer equipment, software, and electronically stored information.

4. This affidavit is submitted in support of a criminal complaint against **RICHARD HOYT CRAWFORD, JR.** for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b). As set forth in more detail below, I believe there is probable cause that **CRAWFORD**, using facilities and means of interstate commerce, that is, the Internet and a cell phone, did knowingly attempt to persuade, induce, and entice an individual who had not attained the age of 18 years of age to engage in sexual activity for which any person could be charged with a criminal offense under Florida law, that is, lewd or lascivious battery, a violation of Florida Statute Section 800.04(4)(a).

5. I make this affidavit from personal knowledge based on my participation in this investigation, information from other criminal investigators, information from law enforcement officers, information from agency reports, and review of documents provided to me by these witnesses and law enforcement officers. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause in support of a criminal complaint, I have not set forth each and every fact learned during the course of this investigation.

6. Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b) prohibits a person from using the mail or any facility or means of interstate or foreign commerce to knowingly attempt to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce an individual who has

not attained the age of 18 years, to engage in prostitution or sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense.

INVESTIGATION

7. On or about February 10, 2018, while working in an undercover (UC) capacity, I posted an advertisement on the Internet stating, "taboo ls, looking for taboo minded ppl, who aren't afraid of the dark, are looking for that dark taboo experience, the hmu."

8. On February 10, 2018, an individual (later identified as **CRAWFORD**) responded to the advertisement, "Let's do it. Clean fit 6 ft 180 BWC." I replied, "FYI 50yo taboo dad, w 12yo daughter, shes into guys...im not, shes also accepts donations, if this isn't you then to reply, NO RP here." **CRAWFORD** responded, "Lets do it. Let me know where." I replied, "pk." **CRAWFORD** responded, "Ok. Say where How much you thinking." I replied, "the \$\$\$ is dependent on what you want to do or have done." **CRAWFORD** responded, "Ok. Say where. Need to do now if she is ready." I replied, "we're in the lake mary/ sanford area, like i said the \$\$\$ is dependent on what you want to do or have done." **CRAWFORD** responded, "Ok. I want it all. Address." I replied, "no ruff stuff." **CRAWFORD** replied, "Ok. No problem. What's she like. In dark right". **CRAWFORD** then followed up with the follow messages: "You interested. I'm ready, Hello. I can be on my way, and Let me know. Thanks."

9. On February 12, 2018, **CRAWFORD** sent an email stating, "Play tonight. Generous."

10. On February 19, 2018, I replied, "sorry been tied up...what you looking to do?." **CRAWFORD** responded, "Have a good time. Suck fuck. Let me know." **CRAWFORD** then followed up with several other emails indicating he was ready, asking to play and stating that he was generous. I replied, "well there are some rules and we're pretty busy this week, my daughter is pretty busy with dance after school and some projects and im a banquet bartender so I work some days & nights, so next week would work better for us. **CRAWFORD** responded, "That's fine. What are the rules. Next week is good for me too." I replied, "no bareback...i dont need to explain why my 12yo daughter is prego, NO anal...NO ruff stuff...and i get to watch." I then replied, "also if \$\$\$ is a problem we can also barter." **CRAWFORD** responded, "\$\$\$\$. Is no problem. I'm ok with rules. Say when." **CRAWFORD** then asked for a picture and asked how much "\$\$\$." I told **CRAWFORD** that I would get with him later.

11. On February 23, 2018, **CRAWFORD** responded, "Good morning. You want to plan for next week."

12. On February 26, 2018, **CRAWFORD** responded, Good morning. She want to play. This week." I replied, "sorry been busy...we never discussed \$\$\$." **CRAWFORD** responded, "What will it take \$\$\$."

13. On February 27, 2018, **CRAWFORD** responded, "Good morning let me know. How much. Thanks." I replied, "before we mention anything further id rather go thru text or an email that isnt going thru CL...if you understand." I then

provided **CRAWFORD** with an undercover email and phone and told him that my name was "Mike."

14. On February 27, 2018, **CRAWFORD** replied via text message, "Hi mike. I'm Mike also." I responded, "you reviously sai dyou wanted to fuck & suck, so i assume oral both ways and just straight sex since she doesnt do anal & i watch if thast still cool." **CRAWFORD** responded, "Yes, Very cool. Awesome." During the conversation, **CRAWFORD** asked how much money it would cost, tried to arrange for a time to meet on February 28th, and **CRAWFORD** again asked for a picture of my notional 12 year old daughter. I replied with a picture (of a law enforcement employee who was 12 to 13 years old at the time the picture was taken) and told **CRAWFORD** that my notional daughter would be 13 years old in August. In later conversation, **CRAWFORD** asked, "Will she be dressed. Or like naked and ready." I replied, "UR paying u tell me as well as what ur plans are." **CRAWFORD** responded, "Love for her to be naked and ready to give head. Then fuck." I asked **CRAWFORD** if he has ever done this before, **CRAWFORD** responded, "Paid for it. Yes." I replied, "With someone as tnt as my daughter? Just wondering what makes u interested in our lifestyle...no biggie." **CRAWFORD** responded, "Variety." During conversation we discussed meeting the next day and **CRAWFORD** again asked for pictures of my notional 12 year old daughter. Arrangements were made to have **CRAWFORD** pay \$50 to \$75 for sexual activity with my notional 12 year old daughter, and that we would try to meet the following day at 3:00 p.m.

15. On February 28, 2018, **CRAWFORD** sent a message, "Good morning. We all good." I replied, "yes but around 1pm would be better, Tracey has lunch around 12 tpdya so I'm picking her up from school so is 1pm ok?" **CRAWFORD** responded, "Yes. She know about this. She ready." I replied, "she knows I have a friend who might be meeting us today for play so shes good." **CRAWFORD** responded, "Cool. Send address. Thanks." I replied, "ok we meet at the wendys parking lot on lake mary blvd at I-4, after we meet and we're cool with each other then you follow us to our place or you can play in our van... plenty of room." I told **CRAWFORD** that my notional 12 year old daughter and I would be in a grey Dodge van. **CRAWFORD** said he would be driving a Z71 gold Chevy truck. I asked, "ok cool see you at 1pm, did you want her dressed in the van or what?" **CRAWFORD** responded, "No. If she is comfortable. Have her naked or something easy access." During conversation **CRAWFORD** asked for a sexy picture of my notional 12 year old daughter. I sent another picture of the same female who was 12 to 13 years old at the time the picture was taken.

16. On February 28, 2018, at approximately 12:58 p.m., I sent **CRAWFORD** a message that we were backed into a parking space at a particular restaurant.

17. At approximately 1:00 p.m, assisting agents saw a gold Chevrolet pickup truck on Lake Mary Boulevard, I observed the vehicle turn into a 7-11 parking lot and drive towards the restaurant I had referenced, the vehicle then backed in next to the passenger side of my vehicle. We both rolled our windows

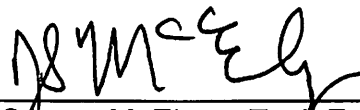
down. I asked if he was Mike, he acknowledge, yes. I then said, "shes naked in the back do you want to get out and see her?" **CRAWFORD** again said yes. **CRAWFORD** was apprehended by assisting agents as he tried to exit his vehicle.

18. In his custodial post-*Miranda* interview, **CRAWFORD** said that he used his iPhone 6 to communicate via email and text messaging. **CRAWFORD** said he answered an ad on Craigslist reference taboo. Without any prompting, **CRAWFORD** spontaneously denied being present to meet anyone "underage" or "illegal." During a post-*Miranda* interview, **CRAWFORD** acknowledged that the communications indicated that a 12-year old girl would be involved, but stated that he found that hard to believe. He stated he showed up to see whether or not the father had a 12 year old daughter, but claimed he would not have gone through with it if the child had been underage.

CONCLUSION

19. I believe there is probable cause that **CRAWFORD**, using facilities or means of interstate commerce, that is, the Internet and a cell phone, did knowingly attempt to persuade, induce, and entice an individual who **CRAWFORD** believed had not attained the age of 18 years, to engage in sexual activity for which any person could be charged with a criminal offense under Florida law, that is, lewd or lascivious battery, a violation of Florida Statute

Section 800.04(4)(a), all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b).



J. Steven McElyea, Task Force Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 28th day of February, 2018.



HON. KARLA R. SPAULDING
United States Magistrate Judge