

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Middle District of Florida

United States of America)

v.)

MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE)

Case No.)

3:19-mj-1133-MCR)

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 24, 2018 in the county of Clay in the Middle District of Florida, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) Offense Description Production of child pornography

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit.

Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

Benjamin J. Luedke, HSI Special Agent

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 4/4/19

Judge's signature

City and state: Jacksonville, Florida

Monte C. Richardson, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT

I, Benjamin Luedke, being duly sworn, state as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent (SA) with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the investigative arm of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), formerly known as the United States Customs Service. I have been assigned to the Office of the Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Jacksonville, Florida since August 2007. Prior to that, I was assigned to the Blaine, Washington office, beginning in July of 2002. I am a law enforcement officer of the United States and am thus authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of violations of federal criminal law. I am responsible for enforcing federal criminal statutes under the jurisdiction of HSI, including violations of law involving the exploitation of children. I have attended the Basic Criminal Investigator School and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Academy at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Georgia, and I have received training in the area of Customs laws. In my capacity as a Special Agent, I have participated in numerous types of investigations, during the course of which I have conducted or participated in physical surveillance, undercover transactions and operations, historical investigations, extradition cases and other complex investigations. Prior to my employment with HSI, I worked as a federal police officer with the U.S. Capitol Police from June 2000 to March 2002. Since becoming a Special Agent, I have worked with

experienced Special Agents and state and local law enforcement officers who also investigate child exploitation offenses.

2. I have investigated and assisted in the investigation of criminal matters involving the sexual exploitation of children that constituted violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2251, 2252, 2252A, 2422, and 2423, as well as Florida state statutes that criminalize sexual activity with minors and other methods of child sexual exploitation. In connection with such investigations, I have served as case agent and have served as an undercover agent in online child exploitation cases. During the course of my investigations, I have worked closely with members of the local child exploitation task force comprised of agents and officers from HSI, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO), the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO), and the Clay County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), among other agencies. These agencies routinely share information involving the characteristics of child sex offenders as well as investigative techniques and leads. As a federal agent, I am authorized to investigate and assist in the prosecution of violations of laws of the United States, and to execute search warrants and arrest warrants issued by federal and state courts.

3. The statements contained in this affidavit are based on my personal knowledge, as well as on information provided to me by experienced law enforcement officers and personnel. This affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of

establishing probable cause for the filing of a criminal complaint, and I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to believe that MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE has committed a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2251(a), that is, production of child pornography.

4. I make this affidavit in support of a criminal complaint against MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE, that is, on or about February 24, 2018, in the Middle District of Florida, MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE, did employ, use, persuade, induce, entice and coerce a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct, and which image was produced using materials that have been mailed, shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2251(a).

5. On or about March 27, 2019, I spoke with Clay County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Detective (Det.) Ryan Ellis, and he provided information about an ongoing investigation of MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE for violations of Florida statutes involving child sexual exploitation. I know Detective Ellis is a sworn CCSO Deputy Sheriff assigned to the CCSO Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, and is a member of the North Florida ICAC and therein conduct investigations involving internet crimes against children. The investigation resulted in the issuance of a Florida state arrest warrant for MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE on March 27, 2019. MICHAEL

GLENN CHOPE was arrested on April 3, 2019 by the Rowlett Police Department in Rowlett, Texas.

6. On March 29, 2019, I met with and discussed the details of this investigation with Det. Ellis. On the same day, he advised me of, in substance and among other things, the following:

a. On February 5, 2019, he was assigned a cyber tip originating from Chatstep, and disseminated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) for investigation. Chatstep is an anonymous online chatroom service company. The cyber tip was sent after Chatstep suspected an image depicting child sexual abuse material (CSAM) was shared in a chatroom. Florida State subpoenas had already been issued to and returned by Chatstep and Yahoo for information related to the cyber tip. As a result of the subpoena, Chatstep provided the user name of the Chatstep user who shared the suspected image of CSAM as "FLDaddy" and an email address of tigr_mg@yahoo.com. As the result of a subsequent Florida state subpoena, Yahoo provided the subscriber of the email address as "Mr S C", Orange Park, FL 32072, phone number of 904-413-3677, among other identifiers. Queries by Det. Ellis of two (2) separate law enforcement databases associated the number with MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE.

b. On March 13, 2019, Det. Ellis contacted MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE at his residence after receiving a Cyber Tip from the National Center for

Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Det. Ellis informed me that information provided as the result of state subpoenas issued to Chatstep and Yahoo resulted in the identification of an email address and phone number associated to MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE. During Det. Ellis' interview, MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE confirmed his email address and telephone number as the same as provided in the information as a result of the state subpoenas. He stated he is the only person to use both the email address and his cellular phone. He confirmed he does not allow anyone else to his electronics and his computers and cellular phone are password protected. He stated the internet at his home is password protected and secure. He admitted to previously having a Chatstep account and his user name was "FLDaddy." He stated he was the only person to use and have access to the Chatstep account/online service. Det. Ellis then advised MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE he wanted to speak with him specifically about child pornography and other child abusive material. MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE stated he has seen child pornography numerous times while online and has seen child pornography while on Chatstep. He also admitted to possessing child pornography and indicated he knows what child pornography is and knows it is illegal. He admitted to viewing images of nude prepubescent children and images of children sexually active with adult men. He stated his electronics in the home at the time were used in the past to view and possess child pornography. Det. Ellis asked MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE if he currently had any child pornography and he stated

he had some on his Hewlett Packard (HP) tower, but deleted it all. He then stated he could have child pornography on his other HP computer as well. Det. Ellis asked MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE if he had child pornography on his cellular phone and he stated "yes I do." Det. Ellis asked the defendant if the electronics in his room had child pornography and he stated "you will find some." Det. Ellis subsequently seized a Samsung Galaxy smart phone, a Western Digital External Hard Drive, a HP Desktop, and a HP All-in-One computer from MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE's residence.

c. On March 20, 2019, Det. Ellis applied for and was granted a state search warrant for the four (4) devices mentioned above. During an initial forensic review of the devices, hundreds of images of child sexual abuse material were discovered. In addition, numerous images produced by CHOPE depicting his sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of a prepubescent child were discovered.

d. On March 27, 2019, Det. Ellis was able to identify the victim in the produced images as a child to whom MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE had access.

e. On March 27, 2019, Det. Ellis applied for and was granted a state of Florida arrest warrant for MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE charging him with ten (10) counts of Possession of Photographs of Sexual Performance by Child in violation of Florida statutes 827.071.

7. On April 3, 2019, I, along with Det. Ellis, viewed several of the produced images. The images were produced in a series-type fashion, depicting a prepubescent female child dressed and then in various stages of undress, and posing sexually. Two (2) of the images, each of which were discovered on the storage card from MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE's Samsung Galaxy S7 smartphone, are described below:

a. On or about creation date and time: February 24, 2018 at 7:36:28 PM

Description: The image depicts a prepubescent female child, who has been identified by law enforcement, lying on her back with her legs in the air and spread open. The child is completely nude and appears to be holding her legs. An adult penis is anally penetrating the child. The image appears to be taken from the viewpoint of the adult looking down at the child. I know the child is prepubescent due to the lack of breast development, child like facial features, and overall size of her body.


b. On or about creation date and time: February 24, 2018 at 7:39:39 PM

Description: The image depicts an adult male performing oral sex on a prepubescent female child. The adult male's tongue is in contact with the child's vaginal area. I know the child is prepubescent due to the overall size of her body, lack of pubic hair, and diminutive size of her thighs and torso. Further, the forensic review of this file indicates that this image was produced three minutes after the image described in paragraph 7.a above. I recognize the adult male depicted in the image as MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE from my review of his photograph from the Florida

Driver and Vehicle Identification Database. Further, Det. Ellis confirmed the adult male pictured is MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE with whom he had contact on March 13, 2019.

8. I have examined the Samsung Galaxy S7 smart phone and the storage card discovered within and the smart phone bore a stamp indicating it was manufactured in Vietnam and the storage card bore a stamp indicating it was made in China.

9. Based upon the foregoing facts, I have probable cause to believe that on or about February 24, 2018, in the Middle District of Florida, MICHAEL GLENN CHOPE, did employ, use, persuade, induce, entice and coerce a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct, and which image was produced using materials that have been mailed, shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2251(a).



Benjamin J. Luedke, Special Agent
Homeland Security Investigations

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of April, 2019, at Jacksonville, Florida.



MONTE C. RICHARDSON
United States Magistrate Judge