UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO BE FILED UNDER SEAL

v.

Mag. No. 16-6607

COLIN M. SKEELE

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, Isidro Cruz, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, and that this Complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

continued on the attached pages and made a part hereof.

Isidro Cruz, Special Agent

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Homeland Security Investigations

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, August 4, 2016 in Newark, New Jersey

HONORABLE JOSEPH A. DICKSON United States Magistrate Judge

Attachment A

COUNT ONE Production of Child Pornography

From on or about July 23, 2011 through on or about August 21, 2011, in Morris County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

COLIN M. SKEELE,

did knowingly employ, use, persuade, induce, entice, and coerce and attempt to employ, use, persuade, induce, entice, and coerce a male minor ("Minor Victim 1") to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct, knowing that such visual depiction would be transported and transmitted using any means and facility of interstate commerce, and which visual depiction was transported and transmitted using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce and in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, and did attempt to do so.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2251(a) and Section 2.

COUNT TWO Online Enticement of a Minor to Engage in Criminal Sexual Conduct

From on or about July 23, 2011 through on or about August 21, 2011, in Morris County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

COLIN M. SKEELE,

did, using the mail and any facility and means of interstate and foreign commerce, knowingly persuade, induce, entice, and coerce, and attempt to persuade, induce, entice, and coerce, Minor Victim 1, an individual who had not attained the age of 18 years, to engage in sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, and did attempt to do so.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b) and Section 2.

<u>COUNT THREE</u> Distribution of Child Pornography

In or around July and August, 2011, in Morris County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

COLIN M. SKEELE,

did knowingly distribute child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8)(A), that had been mailed, and using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce, shipped, and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(2)(A) and 2.

COUNT FOUR Production of Child Pornography with Intent to Transport to the United States

In or around February, 2012, in Morris County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

COLIN M. SKEELE,

did employ, use, persuade, induce, entice, and coerce any minor, to engage in, and had a minor assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct outside of the United States, for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct, and intended such visual depiction to be transported to the United States, by any means, including by computer and mail, and did attempt to do so.

In violation of Title, 18, United States Code, Section 2251(c) and Section 2.

Attachment B

I, Isidro Cruz, am a Special Agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security - Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"). I have knowledge of the following facts based upon both my investigation and discussions with other law enforcement personnel and others. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the sole purpose of establishing probable cause to support the issuance of a complaint, I have not included each and every fact known to the government concerning this matter. Where statements of others are set forth herein, these statements are related in substance and in part. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date, I am asserting that it took place on or about the date alleged.

A. Background

- 1. At all times relevant to this Complaint, defendant COLIN M. SKEELE ("SKEELE") resided in Florham Park and Vernon, New Jersey.
- 2. At all times relevant to this Complaint, SKEELE held various positions, both professional and volunteer, that provided him with access to minors. For example:
 - a. From approximately in or about June 2009 through in or about June 2010, SKEELE was employed as a teacher at a parochial school located in Boonton, New Jersey.
 - b. From approximately in or about February 2012 through in or about June 2012, SKEELE was employed as a teacher at a parochial school located in Stirling, New Jersey.
 - c. From approximately in or about 2004 through in or about 2011, SKEELE was employed seasonally at a boys summer camp located in Hardwick, New Jersey (the "Summer Camp").
 - d. SKEELE also worked as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician for an ambulance squad in Vernon Township, New Jersey.

B. The New Jersey Victim

- 3. In or around June 2014, an individual ("Witness 1") reported to law enforcement that he met SKEELE in 2008 or 2009 when Witness 1 was approximately 16 years old and attended the Summer Camp, where SKEELE was employed.
- 4. Witness 1 stated that, starting in or around 2009 or 2010, when he was 16 or 17 years of age, he became friends with SKEELE on Facebook

and, in the course of their communications, SKEELE sent Witness 1 hundreds of images of child pornography. Witness 1 stated that he recognized one of the images of child pornography that SKEELE sent to him as a fellow camper from the Summer Camp ("Victim 1").

- 5. In or around July 2014, law enforcement interviewed Victim 1. Victim 1 stated that he met SKEELE when he attended the Summer Camp, where SKEELE was working in a position of authority. Victim 1 stated that when he was approximately 17 years old, SKEELE paid him approximately \$100 to take and send SKEELE at least one photograph of Victim 1 naked.
- 6. As part of its investigation, law enforcement obtained Facebook messages exchanged between Victim 1 and SKEELE. Those messages revealed that, from in or around July 2011 through in or around August 2011, SKEELE and Victim 1 communicated via Facebook regarding SKEELE's offer to pay Victim 1 to take and email to SKEELE images of Victim 1 engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Victim 1 was under 18 years of age during this entire time period.
- 7. For example, on or about July 23, 2011, SKEELE wrote to Victim 1, "I could probably do 15 [pictures] at 10 dollars each. at least to start.." Soon after, SKEELE sent Victim 1 a Facebook message stating, "Want me to tell you what I want and you can email it?"
- 8. On or about July 24, 2011, SKEELE sent Victim 1 a Facebook message stating, "ok so fifteen pics.. here's my requests.. send me ur address so I can mail a check." SKEELE then provided Victim 1 with a list of 15 sexually explicit photograph suggestions involving various poses, positions, and acts that SKEELE wanted Victim 1 to take of himself and send to SKEELE.
- 9. On or about August 8, 2011, SKEELE wrote to Victim 1 via Facebook and stated that he had mailed a check to Victim 1. On or around August 21, 2011, SKEELE wrote to Victim 1 via Facebook and asked, "hey you got the check right," to which Victim 1 responded, "yepp (: thank youu."
- 10. On or about August 21, 2011, SKEELE wrote to Victim 1 via Facebook and asked, so.. were you looking to do anything else?," to which Victim 1 responded, "haha depends." SKEELE then wrote "well I was thinking.. can u take video? Or like.. go on webcam and I could record it?"

C. The Philippines Transaction

11. On or about February 10, 2015, Witness 1 told law enforcement that he and SKEELE conspired with each other to order, pay for, and view in real-time, live child sexual abuse that was transmitted by individuals located in the Philippines via Skype, an internet-based video conference application.

Specifically, Witness 1 stated that he and SKEELE used SKEELE's credit card to purchase live child pornography shows.

- 12. Law enforcement officers obtained and reviewed text messages and Skype instant messages exchanged through Skype Messenger, between Witness 1 and SKEELE, which indicated that the two worked together to order, pay for, and watch live child sex abuse videos via Skype from sources in the Philippines.
- 13. For example, on or about February 22, 2012, SKEELE and Witness 1 had the following conversation via Skype Messenger:

Witness 1	well, what if i told you that you could have somethin rlly special?
SKEELE	like what?
Witness 1	girls camshow
SKEELE	how old?
Witness 1	7,9,10,11
SKEELE	and its one u dont think ive seen?
Witness 1	a LIVE camshow

- 14. In the same conversation on or about February 22, 2012, SKEELE and Witness 1 discussed how payments were processed for the live child sex abuse videos. For example, SKEELE wrote, "ask if i can see on cam real quick at least two girls.. and then ill pay 60 . . . as long as i see this im totally cool with it . . . once theyre on cam ask them to wave.. that way we can tell if its recorded." A short time later, SKEELE sent Witness 1 his home address, credit card number, expiration date, and security code for the purpose of ordering live child sex abuse videos. Witness 1 texted SKEELE that the total cost to SKEELE for the live child sex abuse video was \$115.
- 15. Records obtained from Western Union and JP Morgan Chase show that, on or about February 22, 2012, SKEELE's credit card was charged \$115 (including fees) and a money transfer of \$100 was made to an individual in the Philippines.
- 16. On or about February 23, 2012, SKEELE and Witness 1 again discussed via text and Skype Messenger ordering additional live child sex abuse videos from the same individuals in the Philippines. In that conversation, SKEELE told Witness 1 about specific sexual acts SKEELE wanted to see the minor children (including a 1-year old child) perform on each other in exchange for additional funds.
- 17. During the conversation on February 23, Witness 1 provided SKEELE with the Skype account name for the individual in the Philippines from whom they purchased the live child sexual abuse videos on or about February 22 and 23, 2012 ("Individual 1").

18. On or about February 24, 2012, SKEELE engaged in the following conversation via Skype Messenger with Individual 1 regarding the purchase of additional live child sexual abuse videos:

SKEELE	so what can i get? tell me about what ur offering i dont know
	the details
Individual 1	boy and girl
Individual 1	sucking licking
SKEELE	how old?
Individual 1	10 yrs old girl and 14 yrs old boy
SKEELE	nice
SKEELE	i definitely want that
SKEELE	what else can u get me?
Individual 1	all u want
Individual 1	ok
SKEELE	i heard you have a baby? a 1 yrs old?
Individual 1	yesss
SKEELE	whats the youngest girl u have?
Individual 1	3 yrs old but on hospital now
SKEELE	im sorry to hear that! whats the youngest you have that could go on cam right now?
Individual 1	7 yrs old
SKEELE	how much to watch your 7 yrs old girl suck the 1 yrs old boy for 15 min?
Individual 1	u send 100 and u get more long show
SKEELE	if i send 100 can i see two girls with the 1 year old boy?
	sucking? licking? and kissing?
SKEELE	???
Individual 1	yesss
SKEELE	great i have lots of money so we can do this every day

- 19. A short time later, on or about February 24, 2012, SKEELE and Individual 1 engaged in a Skype Messenger conversation in which SKEELE asked to see whether the 1 year old boy and one of the girls were available for a live child sexual abuse video.
- 20. Later during the conversation on or about February 24, 2012, SKEELE and Individual 1 corresponded as follows:

SKEELE	can i see each of the kids u have around u so i can pick out which ones i want to see naked?
Individual 1	who
SKEELE	can i see all of them again so i can pick out which ones i want?
Individual 1	ok

Individual 1	u like
SKEELE	yessss very much
Individual 1	tnx
SKEELE	how old is the girl in white shorts standing in the back?
Individual 1	9
SKEELE	i like her =]

21. A short time later, after several failed attempts to remit money to Individual 1 using various money transfer services, SKEELE agreed to send the payment via PayPal to Individual 1's sister ("Individual 2"). Records obtained from PayPal indicate that the following payments were made from a PayPal account held by SKEELE to a PayPal account held in the name provided by Individual 1:

February 24, 2012: \$251.25; February 25, 2012: \$200.00; and February 28, 2012: \$250.00

- 22. The PayPal account records indicate that the IP addresses used by Individual 2 to access the account all originate in the Philippines. The IP address used to access SKEELE's account was traced to SKEELE's residence in Florham Park, New Jersey.
- 23. On or about February 25, 2012, SKEELE and Individual 1 had an additional exchange on Skype Messenger in which SKEELE offered to pay \$250 for unlimited live child sexual abuse videos for a two week period to which Individual 1 agreed.
- 24. Based upon my education, training and experience, and my discussions with other law enforcement officers, and to the best of my knowledge, the communications, images, money transfers, and transfer requests described above were transported and transmitted in interstate commerce and were transported and transmitted using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce, including by computer.