

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon. José R. Almonte
:
v. :
: Magistrate. No. 24-16017
BRANDON TYLER MOONEY :
CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, Kelsey Granger, 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 Federal Bureau of Investigation, and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

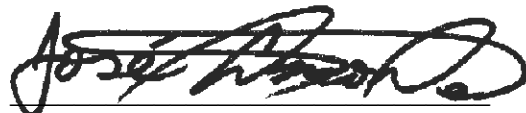
SEE ATTACHMENT B

continued on the attached pages and made a part hereof.

/s/ Kelsey Granger

Kelsey Granger, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Special Agent Granger attested to this Affidavit by telephone pursuant to F.R.C.P. 4.1(B)(2)(A) on this 11th day of January, 2024.



Hon. José R. Almonte
United States Magistrate Judge

ATTACHMENT A

Count 1
(Possession of Child Pornography)

From on or about December 19, 2023, through on or about January 11, 2024, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

BRANDON TYLER MOONEY,

did knowingly possess material that contained images of child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), which images had been mailed, shipped, and transported using any means or facility of interstate and foreign commerce and in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, and that were produced using materials that had been mailed, and 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)(5)(B) and (b)(2).

Count 2
(Distribution of Child Pornography)

On or about December 19, 2023, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

BRANDON TYLER MOONEY,

did knowingly receive or distribute material that contained child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), which had been mailed, shipped, and transported using any means or facility of interstate and foreign commerce and 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)(B) and (b)(1).

ATTACHMENT B

I, Kelsey Granger, am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The information contained in the complaint is based upon my personal knowledge, as well as information obtained from other sources, including: (a) my review of publicly available information; and (b) my review of evidence, including documents and other materials. Because this complaint is being submitted for a limited purpose, I have not set forth every fact that I know concerning this investigation. Where the contents of documents and the actions and statements of others are reported, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated. 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.

1. At all times relevant to this Criminal Complaint, defendant BRANDON TYLER MOONEY ("MOONEY") was a resident of Bayonne, New Jersey, located in Hudson County, New Jersey.

2. For background, on or about July 31, 2023, in the process of pursuing another investigation, the FBI learned about a cloud-based instant messaging account (the "Messaging Account") and its participation in the distribution of Child Sexual Abuse Material ("CSAM"). Specifically, and in conjunction with a foreign law enforcement agency ("FLA-1"), the FBI identified and investigated an individual ("Individual-1") based in FLA-1's jurisdiction believed to be producing and distributing CSAM. Individual-1 provided law enforcement authorities with access to some of his own cloud-based instant messaging accounts, which he used to communicate with others for the purpose of distributing CSAM. Individual-1 in FLA-1's jurisdiction identified the Messaging Account as one of potential interest to law enforcement authorities. The Messaging Account received approximately over 100 purported videos and images of CSAM from Individual-1's account.

3. On or about June 18, 2023, the Messaging Account sent three Bitcoin payments to Individual-1 in FLA-1's jurisdiction. The FBI Cryptocurrency Unit was able to track the payments back to MOONEY, who the FBI found was associated with an address in Pennsylvania. Additional investigation revealed that MOONEY's current residence is in Bayonne, New Jersey, located in or around Hudson County, New Jersey (the "Residence").

4. On or about December 19, 2023, an undercover law enforcement official ("UC-1") communicated with the Messaging Account. The Messaging Account sent to UC-1 multiple images and videos of CSAM, including:

- a. a video that depicts an adult male masturbating on top of a nude female child, who appears to be approximately two-years old or

younger, and then ejaculating on the minor child's face as she sits in a child's bath basin; and

- b. an image containing 24 thumbnails of a video of a nude female child, who appears to be approximately two-years old or younger, with an erect penis pressed in or against her vagina.

5. Through further investigation, law enforcement determined that the same Messaging Account linked to MOONEY through Bitcoin-transaction analysis – the account that received CSAM from Individual-1 – was the same account that sent CSAM to UC-1. Law enforcement also determined that MOONEY currently occupies the Residence.

6. On or about January 11, 2024, law enforcement executed a lawfully obtained search warrant at the Residence. During the search of the Residence, law enforcement seized, among other things, a laptop computer (the "Seized Computer"), at least two external hard drives (the "Storage Devices"), at least three USB drives (the "Thumb Drives"), and multiple cellular devices (the "Mobile Devices") (collectively, the "Electronic Devices").

7. No other resident was present at the Residence. In a voluntary interview on or about the same date, MOONEY stated to law enforcement, in sum and substance, that:

- a. at this time, he is the sole occupant of the Residence;
- b. he was the sole owner and user of the Messaging Account, and that he himself sent CSAM images from the Messaging Account; and
- c. he was the sole owner and user of the Electronic Devices that contained CSAM recovered at the Residence.

8. A preliminary, on-scene review of the Electronic Devices revealed at least approximately over 600 images that appear to depict child pornography, including the two images described in Paragraph 4.