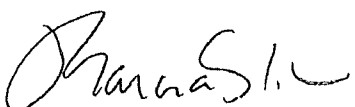


Approved: 
Marcia S. Cohen
Assistant United States Attorney

Before: HONORABLE ANDREW E. KRAUSE
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York

-----x		<u>SEALED COMPLAINT</u>	23mj3342
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Violation of 18 U.S.C.	
	:	§§ 2422(b) and 2260A	
	:		
-v.-	:	COUNTY OF OFFENSE:	
	:	Orange County	
CURTIS ELLINGTON,	:		
a/k/a "Alex,"	:		
Defendant.	:		
-----x			

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

PAO MEI FISHER, being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE
(Coercion and Enticement Of a Minor)

1. Between at least on or about April 6, 2023 up to and including at least on or about April 7, 2023, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, CURTIS ELLINGTON, the defendant, knowingly, using facilities and means of interstate and foreign commerce, persuaded, induced, enticed and coerced an individual who had not attained the age of 18 years to engage in sexual activity for which a person can be charged with a criminal offense, to wit, CURTIS ELLINGTON, the defendant, in online communications, persuaded, induced, enticed and coerced a 15-year-old minor ("Victim-1") to engage in sexual activity with ELLINGTON in Orange County, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b).)

COUNT TWO
(Penalties for Registered Sex Offenders)

2. Between at least on or about April 6, 2023 up to and including at least on or about April 7, 2023, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, CURTIS ELLINGTON, the defendant, being required by Federal and other law to register as a sex offender, committed a felony offense involving a minor under Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422, to wit, the violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b) charged in Count One of this Complaint.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2260A.)

The bases for my knowledge and for the foregoing charge are, in part, as follows:

3. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), assigned to the Hudson Valley Resident Agency. I have been a Special Agent with the FBI since January 2017. I have participated in numerous investigations involving crimes against children, including the receipt, possession, and/or distribution of child pornography by electronic means, sexual exploitation, and enticement of minors. I have gained expertise in these areas through training and daily work related to conducting these types of investigations.

4. I have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter. This affidavit is based upon my conversations with law enforcement officers and others, and my examination of reports and records. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, it does not include all the facts that I have learned during the course of my investigation. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements and conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

5. On or about April 14, 2023, the Middletown Police Department ("MPD") requested assistance from the FBI concerning an investigation relating to CURTIS ELLINGTON, the defendant. Based on my conversations with a MPD Officer ("Officer-1") and my review of criminal history records, I am aware that CURTIS ELLINGTON, the defendant, who is 33 years old, was convicted on or about January 12, 2007 in Orange County Court of Rape in the 1st Degree: Intercourse with A Person Less Than 11 Years Old and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 7 years. As a result of this conviction, ELLINGTON is required to register as a sex offender.

6. Based on my conversations with Officer-1 and my review of MPD reports, I am aware that, on or about April 14, 2023, MPD received a report from the father of a 15-year-old minor. Victim-1's father ("Witness-1") reported that an individual known to Witness-1 as "Alex" had visited him and his daughter ("Victim-1") from Kansas and slept at their house the previous week. Witness-1 reported that he had discovered communications on Victim-1's cellphone between his daughter and "Alex" that concerned him. Officer-1 showed Witness-1 a photograph of CURTIS ELLINGTON, the defendant, and Witness-1 identified ELLINGTON as the individual to whom he was referring to as "Alex," who slept at his house. Witness-1 provided

MPD with Victim-1's phone ("Phone-1") and authorized law enforcement to conduct a search of Phone-1. Witness-1 also showed MPD Instagram messages Witness-1 had exchanged with ELLINGTON in which ELLINGTON used the Instagram screen name "Godson."

7. On or about April 18, 2023, I spoke to Witness-1. Among other things, he told me that, on the evening of April 7, 2023, CURTIS ELLINGTON, the defendant, who is known to Witness-1 as "Alex," slept at his house. Witness-1 said that, that evening, Witness-1 fell asleep on a couch downstairs. When he awoke in the morning, he went upstairs and saw his daughter run out of the bedroom in which ELLINGTON was sleeping.

8. I have reviewed material extracted from Phone-1. This material includes over 1500 Instagram messages exchanged via Instagram from in or about April 6, 2023 to in or about April 14, 2023 between a user with the Instagram screen name "playboi__j" and a user with the Instagram screen name "Godson" ("Instagram Messages"). The Instagram Messages include the following:

a. On April 6, 2023 at approximately 5:55 p.m., Godson said, "Me staying over tomorrow??" Playboi__j responded, "Idk r u" Godson said, "yeah" and "I'm sleeping over." Godson asked, "Is that ok." Playboi__j said, "yeh but where u sleepin tho boy."

b. On April 6, 2023 at approximately 9:07 p.m., Godson wrote, "What would you do If I kissed u." Godson added, "I wanted to so bad." At approximately 9:13 p.m., Godson wrote, "I wanna kiss you so bad."

c. On April 6, 2023 at approximately 9:16 p.m., Godson said, "N if I touch u" and "Or tried to put." Playboi__j said, "You been sayin that." Godson replied, "A lil in u." Playboi__j said, "But only if u buy me a vape cuz he won't buy it for me." Later in the conversation, after Godson agreed, Playboi__j said, "But can I get 2 tho" and "I'll pay u back." Godson said, "I'll try."

d. On April 7, 2023 at approximately 10:04 a.m., Playboi__j said, "When u come over u better brin it." Godson replied, "Tha vape." Godson added, "Then u got to let me put it in u till u nut on it." Godson said, "Deal lol r no deal." Playboi__j said, "Maybe." Godson said, "No excuses" and "N u have to kiss me."

e. On April 7, 2023 at approximately 10:13 a.m., Godson said, "For r tha vape n u can't say non." Playboi__j replied, "Bruh I never do tell anyone." Godson replied, "Can't tell no One."

f. On April 7, 2023 at approximately 10:45 a.m., Godson said, "Condoms or na" and "???" Playboi__j responded, "Bruh u better not have caught anything." Godson said, "Na." Playboi__j said, "I'm being fr." Godson said, "Just don't want to nut in u" and "N get u pregnant."

g. On April 7, 2023 at approximately 10:58 a.m., Godson said, “U can’t tell no one that we r fucken ok?” Godson added, “No matter what.” Playboi__j said, “But wow tho nd ok.” Godson replied, “I’ll go to prison for life.”

h. On April 7, 2023 at approximately 11:07 p.m., Godson said, “I’m in here kiss me stop being scared r we having sex to night or naw.” Playboi__j replied, “U want to.” Godson said, “Yeah I’m a bout to kiss u,” “I’m here,” and “Now u scared.” Playboi__j said, “Naw.” Godson said, “No so u not scared so come on he can’t here us he on tha phone” and “I want u so bad.”

i. On April 8, 2023 at approximately 2:25 a.m., Godson said, “U wanna have sex again????” and “Did you like it???”

9. On or about April 25, 2023, I met with Victim-1. Among other things, Victim-1 told me following, in substance and in part:

a. Victim-1 is “Playboi__j” and “Alex,” her dad’s friend who slept over at their house, is “Godson” on Instagram. Victim-1 identified the Instagram Messages as her communications with “Alex.”

b. “Alex” asked her multiple times to engage in sexual activity. She agreed to it if he would give her two vape pens. When he was at her house, he gave her the pens.

c. “Alex” slept at her house and brought a condom with him. When she was with “Alex,” he put the condom on his penis and attempted to put his penis in her vagina. He told her to touch his penis and, after she did that, he ejaculated.

10. On April 25, 2023, Witness-1 provided me with two vape pens Witness-1 found in Victim-1's school backpack.

WHEREFORE, deponent prays that the above-named defendant be arrested and imprisoned or bailed as the case may be.

PAO Mei Fisher / by AGK, with permission
PAO MEI FISHER
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to me through the transmission of this
Affidavit by reliable electronic means, pursuant to
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 41(d)(3) and 4.1, this
26th day of April, 2023 [By FaceTime]

Andrew Krause
HONORABLE ANDREW E. KRAUSE
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York