



U.S. Department of Justice

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FORMER TV PRODUCER SENTENCED IN CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASE

Little Rock, AR - Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced Steven Marshall, age 67, a Hollywood tv producer, who retired to Little Rock two years ago, was sentenced by Chief United States District Judge J. Leon Holmes to 90 months imprisonment followed by supervised release for life for Distribution of Child Pornography.

“As a result of the collaboration between federal and local law enforcement, Steven Marshall was sentenced to a significant federal prison term with no parole,” stated Duke. “We are so very fortunate to have valuable law enforcement partners like the Kirksville (MO) Regional Computer Crimes Unit and the Little Rock Police Department involved in Project Safe Childhood. When we work with one another as Project Safe Childhood contemplates, we become a force multiplier to protect our children on the internet.”

On January 19, 2009, an undercover detective (UCD) with the Kirksville (MO) Regional Computer Crimes Unit, was posing as an adult male in a Guilty Groups chat room. The UCD was approached by “papa71953” (Papa) through an internet messaging service, who asked the UCD if he liked to trade pictures, stating that he had pictures of boys and girls. Papa then sent the UCD images of child pornography. The UCD sent images of his profile and a non-pornographic image of a young teen boy. Papa said that the boy was a little old, but he was interested in having sex with him anyway.

On subsequent days in March, 2009, Papa engaged in chats with the UCD, sending him images of child pornography and scolding the UCD for not returning the favor. Papa also sent a picture of himself engaged in sexual activity. A subpoena to the internet provider revealed the user of the Internet Protocol address associated with “papa71953” was “Steve Marshall” with a Little Rock address. The UCD compared the identity of the person in the picture to Steven Marshall’s driver’s license photograph and determined they were the same person.

The Little Rock Police Department obtained a state search warrant on Steven Marshall's home and seized numerous pieces of computer equipment. The equipment was forensically examined and thirty-five pictures and ten movies containing child pornography were found on a thumb-drive hidden behind Marshall's computer desk. The forensic examination also revealed internet chats dating back to 2005 in which Steve Marshall traded child pornography, receiving as many as 400 images during one chat session.

At the sentencing hearing, the Assistant U.S. Attorney requested Marshall be under supervised release for life following incarceration, citing Marshall's sexual addiction and heinous comments he made about minors in the internet chats. The Court agreed and ordered, in addition to lifetime supervision, that Marshall undergo intensive sex offender therapy, that he register as a sex offender and that he forfeit his computer equipment. He was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The case is a result of an investigation by the Kirksville (MO) Regional Computer Crimes Unit and the Little Rock Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Marsha W. Clevenger prosecuted this case for the United States.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov.

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