

Authorities say child porn case involves 2,000 videos, 100 victims

Written by BILL SCHANEN IV

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Man charged with 10 felonies used computer, female persona to trick kids into performing for him, prosecutor says

A 50-year-old man charged in Ozaukee County Circuit Court not only collected child pornography but produced and distributed it through a sophisticated computer system that he used to trick boys and girls into performing the sex acts he recorded, District Attorney Adam Gerol said during a hearing last week.



David Weaver

David A. Weaver of the Town of Cedarburg, who is charged with 10 counts of possession of child pornography, amassed a collection of 2,000 pornographic videos that were found on his computer and victimized 100 children portrayed in those videos, Gerol said.

“It’s hard to say where they (the children) reside,” he said. “We believe at least one is from Wisconsin. One is from as far away as the country of Jordan.”

Posing as a teenage girl, Weaver would contact primarily boys using Internet webcam software such as Skype and encourage them to perform sexual acts that he would then surreptitiously record, Gerol said.

Weaver would ask the children he contacted if they had friends or younger siblings and encouraged sleep overs, Gerol said.

“The defendant also asked if they had dogs and encouraged them to have sex acts with those dogs,” he said.

During a hearing on Friday, Aug. 23, Judge Paul Malloy set Weaver’s bail at \$250,000 and ordered him not to have contact with anyone younger than 18 or use computer devices if he is released.

“The allegations are certainly startling,” Malloy said.

Gerol, who noted Weaver would face what would amount to a life sentence if convicted, said a significant amount of bail is needed to prevent him from fleeing and, if he does, to “return him from any corner of the earth.”

Weaver’s lawyer, Raymond Dall’Osto, argued for a lesser amount of bail, saying Weaver has

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strong ties to the community that make it unlikely he would flee authorities.

“Mr. Weaver has a wife, a child and a home, and is a longtime member of the community,” Dall’Osto said.

The investigation into Weaver’s activities dates to April 2012 when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents found a pornographic image of a child on a computer in Alden, N.Y., that was sent from a computer in the Town of Cedarburg, according to the criminal complaint.

Federal authorities informed the Ozaukee County Sheriff’s Department, which traced the image to Weaver.

When detectives seized his computer in February, Weaver told them he had a lot of illegal pornographic images on it. When asked about the ages of the children depicted in the images, Weaver said, “There are some young ones,” the complaint states.

A preliminary analysis of the computer detected eight possible pornographic videos depicting children, one of which was named “9-year-old Vicky,” according to the complaint.

Weaver was charged in February with one count of possession of child pornography and had been free on \$5,000 bail until last week.

On Aug. 20, the sheriff’s department received the results of a more thorough analysis of Weaver’s computer done by the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation that revealed far more child pornography and the sophisticated means by which Weaver procured the images.

“This case is dramatically different than the one in February,” Gerol said.

A forensic computer analyst discovered that Weaver maintained five Skype and two Facebook accounts under a number of aliases and that he assumed the identity of a teenage girl he named Sara Mickelson, the complaint states.

Using software that allowed him to use a previously recorded video as if it were the live feed from his webcam, Weaver, posing as Mickelson, communicated with his victims via Skype, according to the complaint.

He used another software application to record the webcam videos he saw on his computer screen, the complaint states.

“He’d begin by having chats with underage boys and invite them to Skype,” Gerol said. “He’d send them naked images of Sara.”

Gerol said Weaver also used software that allowed other people to remotely access his computer hard drive and download pornographic images.

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Each child pornography charge Weaver faces is punishable by a minimum three years in prison and maximum 15 years incarceration and 10 years of extended supervision.