

## Former New Orleans officer with several child pornography convictions will return to prison

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### 1998 Cop Pedophile Stanley Burkhardt

A celebrated former commander of the New Orleans Police Department's pedophile unit, whose meteoric rise from patrolman to child abuse detective in the 1980s ended scandalously with multiple convictions for child pornography and molestation, will spend the rest of his life in federal custody after violating his supervised release, a federal judge decided last week.

Stanley Burkhardt, who quickly was promoted from his regular patrol to rape squad investigator to child abuse detective, pleaded guilty in 1998 to two counts of trafficking in child pornography, the third time the disgraced officer was found to have committed crimes against young people.

According to court records, Burkhardt had just wrapped up a nine-year sentence at the Federal Correctional Institution in Butner, N.C., when in 2007 he violated his supervised release by contacting another sex offender, accessing a website to view images of "young males" and setting up an unauthorized email address.

In a document known as a "certification of a sexually dangerous person," the interim chairman of the Federal Bureau of Prisons Certification Review Panel left no doubt that he believed Burkhardt was irredeemable.

"These results, in addition to his current offense conduct, failure in sex offender treatment, and failure on supervised released indicate he will have serious difficulty refraining from sexually violent conduct or child molestation if released," the certification reads.

Burkhardt's legal troubles burst into public view in 1987 when he was convicted of five counts of trafficking in child pornography. The case stemmed from a federal sting launched while he was commander of the NOPD's child abuse unit, which disbanded in 1984.

He served five years of a 10-year sentence after earning early release by completing a prison therapy program for pedophiles. Upon his 1992 release, he pleaded guilty in state court to molesting his 9-year-old niece a decade earlier. He avoided jail time when then-Criminal Court Judge Jerome Winsberg sentenced the shamed officer to time served in the federal case.

Despite public outrage about Burkhardt's release, the judge defended his actions, telling The Times-Picayune he granted the second chance since Burkhardt was on federal probation and "supposedly ... in the best therapy program in the country."

The intervention apparently did not work. Burkhardt again was arrested after another sting shortly after he completed his probation in early 1998.

Using the alias "Jack DiCaprio," Burkhardt began corresponding with an undercover Los Angeles Police Department detective who posed as a fellow pedophile.

Authorities arrested Burkhardt at his home in April 1998 when he accepted a pornographic videotape from an undercover postal inspector posing as a mailman. Officers who searched Burkhardt's St. Claude home found a 12-year-old boy inside the residence, along with magazines and videos showing children in sexually suggestive poses. No charges were lodged in regard to the boy.

Burkhardt pleaded guilty two months after his arrest to charges of accepting delivery of a videotape with child pornography and possessing child pornography at his home, prompting former U.S. Attorney Eddie Jordan to describe him as "depraved."

"I don't think he'll be in a position to hurt any more children for some time to come," Jordan said after Burkhardt received the nine-year sentence. Burkhardt had just completed that term when he got into trouble for the last time.

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