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## Child porn charges net former officer 25 years in prison

- Story

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By HUEY FREEMAN - H&R Staff Writer Herald-Review.com | Posted: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 12:00 am

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URBANA - A former police officer was sentenced Tuesday to 25 years in federal prison for producing and possessing child pornography.

Matthew Aukamp, 44, of Macon, pleaded guilty Nov. 1 to coercing minors into engaging in sexual conduct for the purpose of producing images from Oct. 31, 2004, to March 14, 2008.

Aukamp, a former Decatur police officer who left the force in 2000, was arrested April 7, 2010, after a grand jury indicted him on one count of producing and two counts of possessing child pornography. He has been in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service since his arrest.

According to federal sentencing guidelines, Aukamp will have to serve at least 21¼ years, 85 percent of his sentence, said Sharon Paul, spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District. He will remain under supervised release for life following his prison term.

Aukamp was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge Michael P. McCuskey in U.S. District Court, Urbana. The prosecutor in the case was Assistant U.S. Attorney Elly Peirson.

The investigation leading to his arrest was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Macon County Sheriff's Office and Decatur Police Department as part of Project Safe Childhood, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Aukamp is also facing state charges of predatory criminal sexual abuse for allegedly repeatedly abusing a girl during a six-year period, which began around 2002. He was arrested on those charges on Jan. 12, 2010.

While free on bond on those charges, Aukamp was arrested on the federal pornography charges.

A pretrial hearing is scheduled for March 14 in Macon County Circuit on the criminal sexual abuse charges.

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