

Former cop guilty of child sexual abuse

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2010 Cop Pedophile William E. Hurlbut

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A former local police officer was convicted this week in Spotsylvania County Circuit Court of three charges involving child sexual abuse.

William E. Hurlbut, 32, of Spotsylvania, was convicted of aggravated sexual battery of a child under the age of 13 and three counts of possessing child pornography.

Hurlbut formerly worked for the Aquia Harbour Police Department in Stafford.

As part of a plea agreement, other charges against Hurlbut were dropped. He will be sentenced on Nov. 10.

According to the agreement, the convictions stem from charges Spotsylvania detectives initially filed against Hurlbut in September 2010.

The county later dropped its charges while federal cases against Hurlbut proceeded, but prosecutor Matt Lowery has since reinstated the charges.

The evidence shows that a Northern Virginia task force was investigating child pornography on the Internet when they came across activity that was later tied to Hurlbut, who had already been fired by the Aquia Harbour department for unrelated issues.

When police raided Hurlbut's home, they found him viewing a child pornography video on a cellphone while sitting within arm's reach of a handgun.

He told police that he'd been downloading child pornography for years and had been obsessed with it since he was about 14. He said he realized how "stupid" it was after becoming a police officer, but he continued to have urges, according to the agreement.

The investigation led police to a boy who was 8 years old at the time. Naked pictures of the boy were found on Hurlbut's camera, according to court records. The victim, who is now a teenager, was the child of an acquaintance of Hurlbut's.

Hurlbut will be facing up to 45 years in prison at sentencing.

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