

Detention officer sentenced to 15 years for child pornography

Staff Report

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David Wayne Land, a former detention officer with the Harris County Sheriff's Office, was convicted of promotion and possession of child pornography and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

The conviction and sentence were the result of a plea agreement between Internet crimes prosecutor Liah Olson and the defense lawyer. The punishment range for this offense was two years to 20 years in prison, or two to 10 years probation.

Evidence garnered through the collaborative efforts of the Department of Homeland Security, Houston Police Department, Montgomery County Precinct 4 Constable's Office, Montgomery County District Attorney's Office and Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force found Land was involved in offering for distribution two video files portraying minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

On Nov. 26, 2012, a federal search warrant was executed on Land's residence in Porter.

Upon entry into the residence, agents encountered the adult daughter of the defendant and a 10-year-old minor male not related to Land. The minor was taken to Children's Safe Harbor for a forensic interview and the minor child indicated inappropriate behavior had taken place at the residence.

The child stated that Land had been discussing sex acts with the 10-year-old but had not engaged in any touching at that point. Experts classify this as typical predator "grooming" behavior.

A forensic examination of computers and equipment collected from Land's residence pursuant to a search warrant showed that the defendant was in possession of more than 9,500 images and 62 videos portraying minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Assistant District Attorney Olson thanked the law enforcement for their quick work on this case and their in depth investigation which rescued an innocent child from potential harm.

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