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Former Springfield Officer Admits To Child Porn

By Nancy Simpson

CREATED JUN. 1, 2012

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A former Springfield police officer has pleaded guilty in federal court today to child porn charges.

Jack Van Matre admitted he set up hidden cameras in fake ductwork in a 14-year-old girl's bedroom and bathroom in his home.

When Van Matre is sentenced, he'll have to serve at least 15 years with no chance for early release.

From a press release...

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – David M. Ketchmark, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a retired Springfield, Mo., police officer pleaded guilty in federal court today to sexually exploiting a minor by secretly videotaping her in order to produce child pornography.

Jack Van Matre, 55, of Springfield, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr to both of the charges contained in a Nov. 8, 2011, federal indictment. Van Matre remains in federal custody.

By pleading guilty today, Van Matre admitted that he used a minor, identified as Jane Doe #1, to produce child pornography on two separate occasions between Aug. 1 and Oct. 7, 2011.

According to court documents, the 14-year-old minor discovered hidden video cameras installed in fake ductwork in a bedroom and bathroom at Van Matre's residence. Investigators examined Van Matre's computer and found sexually explicit videos of the child victim that had been recorded with the hidden cameras.

Under federal statutes, Van Matre is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison without parole, up to a sentence of 60 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$500,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department and the FBI.

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65802



TODAY

TONIGHT

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Aug 25, 2012 - Springfield, MO (65802)

70°



Clear

High: 76°
Low: 70°
Winds: SSE 14 MPH
Humidity: 85%



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