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Jack Van Matre

News-Leader.com Written by News-Leader Staff

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secretly videotaping her in order to produce child pornography.

Jack Van Matre, 55, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr to 19 years and seven months in federal prison without parole, according to a press release from the office of the United States Attorney Western District of Missouri.

Van Matre was employed by the Springfield Police Department in 1986 and retired in 2006.

He pleaded guilty June 1 to using a minor to produce child

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pornography on two separate occasions between Aug. 1 and Oct. 7, 2011.

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According to the release, the 14-year-old victim, according to court documents, discovered hidden video cameras installed in false ducts in a bedroom and bathroom at Van Matre's residence.

According to the release, Van Matre admitted to cutting holes in the ceiling, covering them with vent covers and installing two hidden cameras.

Initially, court documents said, Van Matre went into the attic and positioned the camera.

Later, he bought cameras he could control remotely from his personal computer.

Investigators found sexually explicit videos of the victim on Van Matre's computer that had been recorded with the hidden cameras, the release said.

A forensic examination of Van Matre's computer revealed he had created and stored 16 separate video files depicting the victim and, the release said, two other minors "in various states of undress."

Officers learned during the investigation that Van Matre had been the focus of two separate investigations for sexually assaulting three prepubescent foster children over a six-year span, the release said.

Van Matre also worked as a contract photographer for the News-Leader from 2003 to 2006, mainly covering high school sports.

He never was a staff photographer.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher and investigated by the Springfield Police Department and the FBI.

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