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Former VCU Police Officer Pleads Guilty to Child Porn Charges

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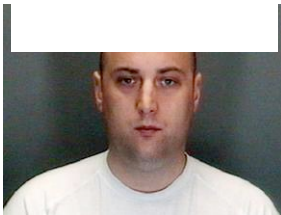


Photo Courtesy of VCU Police

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CHESTERFIELD (April 10, 2012) -- James Edward Deford, Jr., 35, of Chesterfield, pled guilty today to five counts of possession of child pornography, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli announced. Deford was sentenced to two years, 10 months imprisonment in Chesterfield County Circuit Court.

Deford, a former officer with the VCU Police Department, was identified through an undercover investigation into the trading of child pornography over peer-to-peer networks on the Internet. An undercover officer with the Richmond Police Department came into contact with an individual on the Internet who was making computer files containing child pornography available for sharing to other users. During several online sessions in 2011, the undercover officer downloaded a total of six files containing child pornography directly from Deford. Officers then obtained a search warrant for the defendant's residence in Chesterfield County. Officers were able to seize numerous pieces of computer equipment which contained files depicting prepubescent children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Further, Deford voluntarily admitted to downloading and possessing child pornography on his computer.

"The defendant's possession and trading of child pornography contribute greatly to the emotional and psychological damage suffered by the abused and exploited children depicted in this vile material," said Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli. "This case reaffirms the commonwealth's commitment to bring child predators to justice, regardless of their public standing or status."

This case was investigated by the Richmond Police Department. Assistant Attorney General Tommy Johnstone of the Virginia attorney general's office prosecuted the case on behalf of the commonwealth, with cooperation from the Chesterfield County commonwealth's attorney's office.

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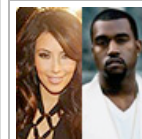
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