

Sheriff's deputy charged with child exploitation, feds say

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Derek Walton, 31, Liberty, Ind., was charged with child exploitation after a raid of his home by FBI agents Aug. 16, 2013. / Palladium-Item

A sheriff's deputy in Eastern Indiana is facing a child exploitation charge following a federal investigation, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced today.

Federal agents searched the home of Derek Walton, 31, Liberty, on Friday and found a thumb drive and a video camera that allegedly contained pornographic images and videos of a minor female, according to a news release from U.S. Attorney Joseph Hogsett's office.

Derek Walton, 31, Liberty, Ind., was charged with child exploitation after a raid of his home by FBI agents Aug. 16, 2013.

According to investigators, two email accounts that had been used to send child pornography were traced to Walton. One account was allegedly accessed from the Franklin County Security Center.

Walton, who has been a reserve deputy and jail officer for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office since 2004, faces decades in federal prison if found guilty of the charge. He also could be sentenced to years of supervised release and be registered as a sexual predator, prosecutors said.

Walton also worked for the Union County Sheriff's Office and Richmond and Laurel police departments.

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