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Ex-police captain admits sexually exploiting minor girl

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NEWARK (AP) — A former northern New Jersey police captain has admitted he sexually exploited a minor girl by enticing her to live-stream explicit acts online in exchange for payment.

Federal prosecutors say Michael Grennier pleaded guilty Monday to a complaint charging him with production of child pornography. The 51-year-old former South Plainfield officer faces up to 30 years in prison when he's sentenced on March 27, 2014.

Grennier was arrested in February, just days after prosecutors said he enticed the girl to perform sexually explicit acts and stream the images online while he watched remotely from his home computer. During the Valentine's Day webcam session, Grennier directed the girl's actions via text messages.

Prosecutors said Grennier promised to buy his victim clothing in exchange for her performance.

According to the federal complaint against him, Grennier paid the girl \$350 to masturbate while he took pictures and/or video several times, including on Valentine's Day.

In one text exchange recovered by the FBI, the girl, known in the files as Jane Doe, says " ... I can see but it was blurry do I have to put my clothes on again?" Grennier responded "no there was s [sic] cloth or something blocking the bottom of the camera."

Grennier then told her via text "just watch and masterbate [sic] like you were," the complaint said.

Later texts indicted Grennier buying clothes for the girl from online sites and having them shipped to her.

At the time of his arrest, Grennier was working for a private computer forensics firm. Prior to his retirement, he was a computer forensics specialist for the South Plainfield Police Department who was once named officer of the year and who is credited with drastically upgrading the department's use of technology in fighting crime.

He also paid \$500 and provided gifts for Jane Doe and a second girl to engage in sexual acts with each other in a hotel room where he set up cameras to record them on more than one occasion.

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