

## Ex-Pasco deputy from Broward gets 5 years in prison for receiving child porn video from teen

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### 2015 Cop Pedophile Matthew Bondi

A Broward man who was fired from his job as a Pasco County Sheriff's deputy was sentenced Monday to five years in federal prison for receiving child pornography.

Matthew Bondi, 22, of Deerfield Beach, was arrested in August in Davie when authorities said he tried to meet an underage teenage boy for sex.

Bondi pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of receiving a video 15-year-old masturbating.

"I sincerely apologize," Bondi told the judge Monday. "I understand what I did and I have from day one."

Bondi was just eight months into what he hoped would be lifetime career in law enforcement when he was arrested. He said he has already begun to try to make "a complete and utter difference in my life."

Now that he's on the "other side of the fence" from law enforcement, he told the judge that he hopes that the cliché "what doesn't kill us makes us stronger" also applies to criminal.

Senior U.S. District Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley said he had weighed all of the specific details involved and said he was "well satisfied" that the minimum prison sentence permitted by law — five years — was "completely adequate in this case." The prosecution and defense had jointly recommended that punishment.

"In a way, this is a very sad case," the judge said, though he made it clear he also considered Bondi's criminal actions and attempt to meet the 15-year-old were very serious.

"I think it's terribly important for Mr. Bondi to realized that he has tremendous potential ... He simply crossed a line here that society considers very serious," the judge said. "People make mistakes in their lives but that doesn't pre-determine what they make of their lives."

Hurley gave Bondi until May 20 to surrender to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons and expressed concerns for his safety, as a former police officer, if he was placed in local jails and then transferred to a federal prison.

The judge, who said he rarely recommends where inmates should be placed, also urged prison authorities to assign Bondi to a less restrictive federal prison camp, though his conviction would normally consign him to a more secure location.

Bondi must register as a sex offender when he is released. The judge ordered him to undergo sex offender treatment, permanently give up his law enforcement certification, barred him from contact or employment with minors and ruled he must submit to ongoing searches of his phones and computers.

Bondi's lawyer Mike Dutko also asked the judge to recommend that Bondi receive treatment for what Dutko called Bondi's occasional "binge-like drinking." The program would not reduce Bondi's prison term but could be useful, Dutko said.

Bondi turned 22 days before investigators said he arranged to meet a 15-year-old boy he had communicated with on Grindr, an online social networking site that is mostly used by gay men to arrange sexual hookups, and Snapchat.

The two never met in person but communicated intermittently online for several months.

At Bondi's request, the 15-year-old sent Bondi a video of himself masturbating in November. Bondi admitted receiving that child pornography.

Bondi dated girls in high school, college and police academy but was trying to figure out if he was gay or "bi-curious" and began using Grindr, his lawyer said.

Bondi was arrested about 8 p.m. Aug. 4 at Pine Ridge Plaza on State Road 84 in Davie when he arrived to meet the teen.

Bondi was not aware that the boy's father, a Davie police officer, had confiscated the teenager's phone as punishment and discovered what Dutko called "extremely sexually graphic communications" the teen had with Bondi and others. The Sun Sentinel is not identifying the victim or his family because of his age and the nature of the case.

The boy's dad turned the phone over to his colleague, who serves on the FBI's task force on crimes against children, and that officer posed as the teen and communicated with Bondi. The undercover officer texted Bondi that he was 15 and a virgin.

Bondi was fired from his job as Pasco County sheriff's deputy immediately after his arrest. He will remain on house arrest with a \$200,000 bond at his parents' home until he reports to prison.

Dutko told the judge that extensive evaluations by a forensic psychologist, including polygraph testing, indicate Bondi is not a danger to others.

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