



Thomas A. Thompson, Prosecuting Attorney, Williams Co., Ohio

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November 3, 2008 NEWS RELEASE

DUNKLE SENTENCED TO 110 YEARS

Coy E. Dunkle, 33, of Edon, Ohio appeared in the Williams County Court of Common Pleas today for sentencing on fifty-three (53) counts related to the possession and production of child pornography. On September 11, 2008, Dunkle pleaded guilty to forty-nine (49) counts of Pandering Sexually Oriented Matter Involving A Minor, each a felony of the third degree carrying a potential penalty from one (1) to five (5) years, and four (4) counts of Illegal Use Of A Minor In Nudity-Oriented Material Or Performance, each a felony of the second degree carrying a potential penalty from two (2) to eight (8) years. In total, Dunkle faced up to a maximum of 277 years of incarceration on the charges.

Prior to handing down the sentence, the Court listened to an account of the offenses offered by Williams County Prosecuting Attorney Tom Thompson. According to Thompson, the charges stemmed from an investigation begun in early November 2007 by Detective John Howe, a member of an internet crimes task force based in Independence, Missouri. Detective Howe made contact with Dunkle in an internet chatroom. During their chat, Dunkle offered to use his 3 year old daughter to produce specific items of child pornography and provided a P.O. Box in Pioneer where funds and other items could be sent. This information lead to the involvement of U.S. Postal Inspector Paul Suboyu

as Dunkle was using the U.S. Postal Service in his operations. Detective Howe and Inspector Suboyu then contacted Edon Police Chief Tom Szymczak to coordinate efforts with local law enforcement.

On November 15, 2007, the Edon Police Department assisted by Inspector Suboyu executed a search warrant at the Dunkle residence. Recovered in the search were two computers, more than 200 DVD/CDs and photography equipment. Computer forensic analysis was completed by Deputy Steven Mueller of the Defiance County Sheriff's Office. The analysis revealed that the computers and DVD/CDs contained thousands upon thousands of images and videos of children in states of nudity and/or engaged in various sexual activities. The search also revealed numerous images of Dunkle's 3 year old daughter in various sexual poses and outfits. Further evidence was collected indicating that Dunkle was trading pictures of his daughter through multiple file sharing programs on his computer.

The Court then heard from Dunkle and his attorney. After noting that Dunkle was convicted of a similar offense involving possession of child pornography in 2003, the young age and vulnerability of his victims, the likelihood of Dunkle committing similar acts in the future and the extremely serious nature of the offenses, the Court issued the sentence. Specifically, the Court ordered Dunkle to serve two (2) years on each of the forty-nine (49) counts of Pandering Sexually Oriented Matter Involving A Minor and three (3) years on each of the four (4) counts of Illegal Use Of A Minor In Nudity-Oriented Material Or Performance. The Court further ordered that all counts were to be served consecutively to one another for a total term of 110 years of imprisonment.

Prosecutor Thompson wishes to thank all of the those involved in the investigation and prosecution. Thompson stated, "This has been a very difficult case due to the particularly repulsive nature and extreme quantity of the materials involved. This case exemplifies the very best in collaborative efforts of local and national law enforcement to combat the online sale and distribution of child pornography. These crimes were initially discovered by a detective in Missouri, further investigated by the U.S. Postal Service out of Cleveland and then turned over to local law enforcement, all within a matter of a few days. It is through this type of cooperative effort that individuals who create and distribute child pornography online can be held accountable for their crimes "

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