

Sixty-One Year Old Man Sentenced to Prison for Sexual Abuse of a Minor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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John Hopkins, 61, of West Chester, Ohio, was sentenced today to 54 months in prison by Warren County Common Pleas Court Judge Robert Peeler. Hopkins pled guilty in August to three counts of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, felonies of the 3rd degree; and two counts of illegal use of a minor in nudity oriented material, felonies of the 5th degree.

In March 2017, Hopkins met a 13 year old juvenile on an App called Grindr. The two began communicating through various forms of electronic communication for several days. Subsequently, Hopkins met the juvenile two times in a parking lot in Lebanon, Ohio, where the sexual conduct occurred. The parents of the juvenile found texts between Hopkins and the juvenile on the juvenile's phone and called the police. A detective then began to play the part of the 13 year old over a couple of weeks and arranged a meeting in which he and Hopkins would go to a hotel under the ruse that the detective was the juvenile. Lebanon police were able to stop and arrest Hopkins at the meeting place. After the arrest, detectives found nude photos of the juvenile on Hopkins' phone.

Hopkins is classified as a Tier II sex offender. He will have to register for the next 25 years.

Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell commended Lebanon Police Detective John Wetzel, Assistant Prosecutor Chris Delnicki, Assistant Prosecutor Derek Faulkner, Director of Victim Witness Services Jessi Flint, Victim Witness Coordinator Melissa Kennard, and Legal Assistant Brenda Berry for their work on the case.



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