



Man Sentenced to Prison for Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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James C. Erion, 49, of Madeira, Ohio, was sentenced today to 48 months in prison by Warren County Common Pleas Court Judge Donald Oda. In January, Erion pled guilty to one count unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, a felony of the 3rd degree, and one count pandering obscenity involving a minor, a felony of the 4th degree. Upon release from prison, Erion will be required to register as a Tier II sexual offender and report every 180 days for 25 years.

During the summer of 2014, the then 47 year old Erion made contact with the then 15 year old victim through the "Whisper" app. They began an online relationship using "Whisper," "KIK," and texting. In December 2014, Erion and the victim began meeting in person, including at the victim's home, picking her up after school and on weekends. Erion and the victim engaged in sexual conduct, as well as exchanging sexually explicit photographs. Erion supplied the victim with a phone so she could continue to communicate with him secretly. In the fall of 2015, the victim's mother discovered the secret phone and reported it to the Clearcreek Township Police Department. The Clearcreek Township Police Department and the FBI executed a search warrant on Erion's home and place of employment. A forensic examination of the victim and Erion's electronic devices revealed the history of contact and photographs.

"The Erion case is yet another reminder of the dangers our young people face as a result of social media and modern technology. As parents, we must stay diligent in warning them about dangers that exist on the other end of the cell phone screen," said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

Fornshell also commended the efforts of Sgt. Larry Cornett of the Clearcreek Township Police Department, the FBI, Assistant Prosecutor Travis Vieux, Director of Victim Witness Services Jessi Flint, and Legal Assistant Kathy Fink for their work on the case.



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