

DAY CARE OWNER CHARGED WITH RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A federal grand jury in Cincinnati has charged John Foster, 36, of Maineville with 24 counts of receiving child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography in an indictment returned yesterday. Foster is the co-owner of the Primrose School at River's Bend in Maineville.

Warren Co. Prosecutor David Fornshell, Warren Co. Sheriff Larry L. Sims, Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Ohio and Michigan announced the indictment returned yesterday.

The indictment alleges that between 2004 and 2007, Foster received visual depictions of minors used to engage in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment charges Foster with one count of possession of child pornography for having a computer and approximately 25 compact discs containing pictures and movies of child pornography. They were found in a search of Foster's residence in July 2011.

Each count of receipt of child pornography is punishable by at least five and up to 20 years in prison. Possession is punishable by up to ten years in prison.

Foster, who is currently in custody on state charges, will have an initial appearance before a U.S. Magistrate Judge.

On August 12, 2011, a Warren County grand jury indicted Foster on 26 felony counts, including rape, sexual battery, and gross sexual imposition of two alleged victims. That case is scheduled for trial in the Warren County Court of Common Pleas on October 31, 2011.

Neither of the two alleged victims in the state case, and none of the victims of the federal child pornography charges are students at the Primrose daycare and preschool.

The federal case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

Fornshell and Stewart commended the cooperative investigation by HSI agents and sheriff's deputies, and the cooperation of Assistant Warren County Prosecutor Travis Vieux. They also thanked computer forensic analysts with the U.S. Secret Service who conducted forensic examinations of computer equipment found in Foster's home.

An indictment merely contains allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.



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