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Randy Shefstad receives 240 month prison sentence following child sex crimes investigation

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 53-year-old Randy Shefstad received a 240 month prison sentence for committing numerous sex crimes against children.

On May 21, 2019, Shefstad pleaded guilty to one count of using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct, two counts of attempting to use a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct and three counts of encouraging child sexual abuse in the first degree.

During this investigation, law enforcement learned that Shefstad used graphic and sexually explicit language to electronically communicate with four separate minor victims – in four different states – in 2017 and 2018 for the purposes of sexual gratification.

“Randy Shefstad sent several videos and photos of himself engaging in sex acts to these underage victims,” said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney BJ Park, who prosecuted this case. “Furthermore, he compelled and induced these minors with developmental and mental disabilities to send him sexually explicit videos and pictures of themselves, and received, images of the minor victims in various stages of undress, to include images of nudity. This exploitation is a violation of each child’s innocence and a violation of the law. We believe this is an appropriate sentence that holds Mr. Shefstad accountable for the harm he has caused these children.”

This investigation started on October 10, 2017 when the parents of one of the victims in Texas discovered sexually explicit content on their child’s cell phone. The parents reported that information to law enforcement in Texas. Once it was discovered this case had an Oregon nexus, law enforcement in Texas used the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program to alert the Portland Police Bureau’s Child Abuse Team.

Investigators later discovered that Shefstad had downloaded and duplicated several hundred child pornography files that depicted toddlers and prepubescent girls being raped and sexually assaulted.

“The material Mr. Shefstad had in his possession was among some the most graphic and disturbing files of child pornography imaginable,” DDA Park said. “The Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office continues to work closely with law enforcement to identify people who view, share, download, upload or produce child pornography and to aggressively prosecute those individuals.”

All of the victims identified in this investigation were between the ages of 10-12 years old and lived in separate states outside of Oregon at the time of the offenses. During the investigation, law enforcement learned that Shefstad used various digital devices to communicate online. All of the minor victims in this case had intellectual disabilities and were autistic. Shefstad met all the victims online; in the case of one victim, he encountered and groomed her on a singing app.

The Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office is part of a multi-disciplinary team comprised of representatives from law enforcement, public schools, hospitals, courts, health departments, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Oregon Department of Employment Child Care Division who work collaboratively to identify and aggressively investigate and prosecute cases of child abuse and neglect.

The Victim Assistance Program for the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office provides support during the reporting of sexual assaults, domestic violence and other crimes and referrals to victim services and resources. They can be contacted by calling 503-988-3222.

The Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office recognizes the work of the law enforcement agencies from within Oregon and outside that assisted with this complex investigation.

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