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Phillip Lancaster, former Roosevelt HS teacher, receives 42 month prison sentence

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced 36-year-old Phillip Lancaster pleaded guilty and received a 42 month prison sentence for knowingly duplicating multiple visual recordings of sexually explicit conduct that involved children.

Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Leslie Roberts accepted the change of plea and convicted Lancaster of two counts of encouraging child sexual abuse in the first degree.

Lancaster will have to register as a sex offender. Upon release, Lancaster will be on three years of post-prison supervision. He also received 60 months of probation and was ordered to undergo a sex offender evaluation and complete any treatment that is recommended.

In 2014, a 16 year old boy was inside a bathroom at Roosevelt High School where Lancaster was employed. The boy reported Lancaster was in the stall next to him and that while using the toilet, the boy saw Lancaster holding a cellphone toward him under the divider that separated the two stalls.

The boy ran outside and told a school resource officer about what occurred. The resource officer, who was assigned to the Portland Police Bureau's Youth Services Division, spoke with Lancaster who turned over his phone and gave police consent to search the electronic device.

"During the search of Mr. Lancaster's phone, police located numerous child pornography files," said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney BJ Park, who prosecuted this case. "Mr. Lancaster was trusted by the community to educate our youth. Instead, he made a horrible decision and seemingly attempted to capture a young boy in a state of nudity. This boy had an unequivocal right to privacy while using a school restroom."

In August 2018, it was determined the case needed additional investigation. The Portland Police Bureau prepared a search warrant for Lancaster's phone. The court authorized a search of the phone, which resulted in the discovery of hundreds of child pornography images and videos, ranging in age from two-12 years old.

Law enforcement presented the case to the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office for prosecution review. A grand jury convened in September 2018 and Lancaster was subsequently indicted.

Certain offenses such as invasion of privacy or encouraging child sexual abuse in the second degree could not be charged due to the statute of limitations.

Lancaster no longer works for Portland Public Schools and his teacher's license previously expired.

During the investigation, law enforcement determined that none of the child pornography located on Lancaster's phone involved students from Roosevelt High School.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office has no additional comment on this case.

#MCDA#

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