

January 27, 2022

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: FAYETTE COUNTY MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced that a Ramsey, Illinois man was charged with possessing child pornography. The case is part of Raoul's ongoing work, in collaboration with federal law enforcement agencies and local law enforcement officials throughout Illinois, to apprehend offenders who download and trade child pornography online.

Waylon Davis, 24, was charged in Fayette County Circuit Court with 10 counts of possession of child pornography, Class 2 felonies punishable by up to three to seven years in prison. Davis' bond is set at \$100,000, and his next court date is scheduled for Feb. 14.

"Child pornography exploits children and often leaves victims and their families with lifelong trauma," Raoul said. "My office is committed to continuing to work through the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and with local law enforcement to track down and stop the individuals who perpetuate these horrible crimes."

Raoul's investigators, with the assistance of the Fayette County Sheriff's Office and Vandalia Police Department, conducted a search of a residence Thursday, Jan. 20 in the 2800 block of North 1500th St. in Fayette and arrested Davis after discovering evidence of online accounts containing child pornography.

Raoul's office is co-prosecuting the case with Fayette County State's Attorney Josh Morrison.

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The arrest is part of Attorney General Raoul's work to investigate and prosecute child pornographers in Illinois. Raoul's office, with a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, runs the [Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children \(ICAC\) Task Force](#) that investigates child exploitation crimes and trains law enforcement agencies. The task force receives CyberTips, or online reports of child pornography, from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Over the last several years, CyberTipline reports have steadily increased; in fact, reports to the ICAC during 2021 increased by 42% over 2020.

In response to increasing reports of online child exploitation, Raoul announced a series of ICAC webinars aimed at giving parents, guardians and educators tools to help children and teens foster healthy online interactions. The free webinars, which began Oct. 7 and take place on the first Thursday of each month, will teach parents and guardians about the social media apps children and teens may be using, how to identify signs that a child may have been a victim of online child solicitation, and more. Interested parties should email Karilyn.orr@ilag.gov to register.

Illinois' ICAC Task Force is one of 61 ICAC Task Forces throughout the country and is comprised of a network of more than 285 local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies, and the task force covers 101 of Illinois' 102 counties. Since 2019, the Attorney General's ICAC Task Force has received more than 20,700 CyberTips and been involved in more than 203 arrests of sexual predators. Since 2006, the Attorney General's ICAC Task Force has been involved in more than 1,780 arrests of sexual predators. The task force also has provided internet safety training and education to more than 959,000 parents, teachers and students and more than 23,100 law enforcement professionals.