



May 16, 2013

MADIGAN: SPRINGFIELD MAN ARRESTED FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Springfield — A Springfield man has been charged with multiple counts of child pornography as part of Operation Glass House, a statewide initiative Attorney General Lisa Madigan launched to apprehend the most active offenders who download and trade child pornography online.

Jeremy G. Best, 31, is charged with five counts of aggravated child pornography, a Class 2 felony punishable by three to seven years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Best is free after posting bond set at \$50,000, with a first appearance scheduled for June 12, 2013, in Sangamon County Circuit Court.

“Child pornography is an unspeakable crime that has very real consequences. Every time an image of a child being sexually assaulted is viewed, it perpetuates the initial crime, further scaring these young, innocent victims,” Madigan said. “My office will continue to be relentless in targeting these offenders.”

Madigan’s investigators, with the assistance of the Springfield Police Department and the Sangamon County State’s Attorney’s Office, conducted a search last week of Best’s residence in the 2400 block of Old Rochester Road in Springfield, and he was arrested after evidence of alleged child pornography was located. Sangamon County State’s Attorney John Milhiser’s office will prosecute the case.

“The sexual exploitation of children is a terrible crime, and the prosecution of these cases is a priority,” said Milhiser. “With the excellent work of law enforcement and the new tools available, we can better identify, track and prosecute these offenders.”

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

This is the 42nd arrest since Madigan launched Operation Glass House in August 2010 to investigate the most active child pornography traders in Illinois. In the first year of Operation Glass House, Madigan’s investigations revealed a disturbing trend of offenders trading extremely violent videos of young children being raped. As a result, Operation Glass House has focused on apprehending offenders who are seen trading and watching extremely violent videos involving children, including infants and toddlers.

Madigan’s office, with a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, runs the Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force, which investigates child exploitation crimes and trains law enforcement agencies. Since 2006, Madigan’s ICAC task force has been involved in 558 arrests of sexual predators. The task force has also provided Internet safety training and education to nearly 290,000 parents, teachers and students and 16,261 law enforcement professionals. Currently, 183 agencies are affiliated with the Illinois ICAC.

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