

Press Releases

July 29, 2013

MADIGAN: KNOX COUNTY MAN ARRESTED FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Springfield — A Yates City 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.

Kevin E. Martin, 54, is charged with four Class X counts of distribution of child pornography, punishable by six to 30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), four additional Class 1 counts of distribution of child pornography, punishable by four to 15 years in the IDOC, three Class 2 counts of possession of child pornography, punishable by three to seven years, and one Class 3 count of possession of child pornography with a possibility of two to five years in prison. Martin is being held in the Knox County Jail with bond set at \$500,000.

"Possessing or distributing child pornography is a horrific crime. Every time an image of a child being sexually assaulted is viewed, it perpetuates the initial offense and further scars these innocent victims," Madigan said. "My office will continue to be relentless in targeting these offenders and working with local law enforcement to arrest and prosecute them."

Madigan's investigators, with the assistance of the Knox County Sheriff's Department and the Knox County State's Attorney's Office, conducted a search of Martin's residence in the 600 block of S. Dixon St. Thursday and the arrest was made after evidence of alleged child pornography was located. Sheriff David Clague commended the cooperation between county and state agencies that led to the arrest. State's Attorney John Pepmeyer's office will prosecute the case.

"This is a classic case of inter-agency cooperation and we are deeply grateful for the assistance we received in developing this case," said Pepmeyer. "My office will vigorously pursue the prosecution of all charges of this nature."

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

This is the 46th arrest since Madigan launched Operation Glass House in August 2010 to investigate the most active child pornography traders in Illinois. In 2010, 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 603 arrests of sexual predators. The Task Force has also provided Internet safety training and education to more than 299,000 parents, teachers and students and more than 16,000 law enforcement professionals. Currently, 186 agencies are affiliated with the Illinois ICAC.

-30-



Return to July 2013 Press Releases

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