

April 19, 2022

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: MACOUPIN COUNTY MAN CHARGED WITH DISSEMINATION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

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

Jacob R. Rogers, 34, of Virden, Illinois, was charged in Macoupin County Circuit Court with three counts of dissemination of child pornography, each a Class X felony punishable by six to 30 years in prison, and six counts of possession of child pornography, each a Class 2 felony punishable by three to seven years in prison. Rogers' bond is set at \$500,000 and his next court date is scheduled for May 3.

"Children and their families are re-victimized each time an offender downloads, shares or views one of these horrific images," Raoul said. "I appreciate the assistance of the Macoupin County Sheriff's Office and the Virden Police Department through the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and I am committed to working with law enforcement at all levels to track down individuals who possess these horrific images."

Raoul's investigators, with the assistance of the Macoupin County Sheriff's Office and the Virden Police Department, conducted a search of a residence Thursday, April 14, on East Lincoln Avenue in Virden, and arrested Rogers after discovering evidence of child pornography.

The case will be jointly prosecuted by Raoul's office and Macoupin County State's Attorney Jordan Garrison.

"As we continue our work to protect children from online predators, it is vital all levels of law enforcement work together to ensure justice for victims," Garrison said. "Sheriff Kahl and I are grateful to partner with Attorney General Raoul and his staff to prosecute this case. Our partnership has resulted in more than a half-dozen cases and I look forward to our continued collaboration."

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's office has conducted 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 take place on the first Thursday of each month, and 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. The next webinar, "Building Online Resilience," will take place Thursday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. Interested parties can visit [OnlineSafeOnlineSmart.com](#) or 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 19,500 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.