November 7, 2022

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: DEKALB COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced a Sandwich, Illinois man was sentenced to four years in prison for possessing child pornography. The case was investigated by Raoul's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which enables collaboration between federal and local law enforcement officials to apprehend offenders who download and trade child pornography online.

Jose A. Medellin, 26, was sentenced by DeKalb County Judge Marcy Buick after pleading guilty in DeKalb County Circuit Court to three counts of possession of child pornography of a victim younger than 13 years old, which are Class 2 felonies. Medellin will also serve four years of probation following his four-year prison sentence.

"This sentencing means the defendant will no longer be able to exploit and victimize young children," Raoul said. "My office is committed to working through the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to hold perpetrators accountable for the heinous crimes they commit, which often leave young victims and their families with a lifetime of trauma."

Investigators from Raoul's office, with the assistance of the Sandwich Police Department, conducted a search of Medellin's residence on Dec. 10, 2020 in the 300 block of Wentworth Drive in Sandwich. Medellin was arrested and charged after evidence of child pornography was found during the search.

The case 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 <u>Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force</u> 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 2021, reports to the ICAC increased by 42% over 2020.

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. Since 2019, the Attorney General's ICAC Task Force has received more than 24,100 CyberTips and has been involved in more than 408 arrests of sexual predators. Since 2006, the Attorney General's ICAC Task Force has been involved in more than 1,840 arrests of sexual predators. The task force also has provided internet safety training and education to more than 962,779 parents, teachers and students, in addition to more than 23,250 law enforcement professionals.

Assistant Attorney General Shantikumar Kulkarni prosecuted the case for Raoul's High Tech Crimes Bureau.