



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2012

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MINNESOTA ICAC INVESTIGATION LEADS TO 25 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHER

ST. PAUL — An investigation by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) has resulted in a 25 year prison sentence for a Big Lake, Minn. man. Joel Grogan Zigler, 48, this week was sentenced to 300 months in prison for producing child pornography.

Zigler admitted that in October 2010 he lured minors to a Hibbing, Minn. hotel room and induced them to engage in sexually explicit behavior. Zigler recorded the behavior using a digital camcorder. The camcorder, videos and other media were seized during the execution of a search warrant at Zigler's parents' home, where Zigler was staying.

"We're working all across Minnesota to track down criminals who create and distribute child pornography," ICAC Task Force Commander and BCA Senior Special Agent Donny Cheung said. "Those who commit these crimes need to know they will be held accountable."

The Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) works with criminal justice agencies throughout Minnesota to investigate and prosecute those who exploit children on the Internet. The ICAC Task Force also works to educate parents and children about potential online risks.

"Enforcement can't be the only response to criminals who harm children in this way. Parents need to know these dangers exist. Arming their children with information is the first step toward protecting their children online," Cheung said.

The ICAC Task Force worked this case with the assistance of the Hibbing Police Department and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Minnesota.

About the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension provides investigative and specialized law enforcement services to prevent and solve crimes in partnership with law enforcement, public safety and criminal justice agencies. Services include criminal justice training, forensic laboratory analysis, criminal histories and investigations.

- The BCA criminal history unit in 2010 completed 495,064 background checks.
- The BCA forensic science lab in 2012 processed more than 26,000 pieces of evidence.
- The BCA Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in 2010 investigated over 700 cases and made 140 arrests.
- BCA agents responded to 83 incidents at the request of local law enforcement agencies.

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Recent BCA activity

- A BCA Financial Crimes Task Force-led investigation brought down a \$50 million worldwide bank fraud conspiracy – leading to 29 convictions and guilty pleas.
- Two dozen members of the Native Mob gang face racketeering charges following a long-term investigation conducted jointly by the BCA and many local, state, tribal and federal agencies. The suspects are in custody following a take-down conducted by more than 100 law enforcement officials.
- BCA agents assisted the St. Louis County Sherriff in successfully locating an 8 year-old boy who was missing for two weeks and allegedly abducted by his father. The father was arrested and taken into custody.
- An Oakdale man faces life in prison for murdering a man who'd listed a vehicle for sale on Craig's List. BCA agents partnered with local law enforcement to track down and apprehend the killer.
- A Cloquet, Minn. man received a 60-year prison sentence for murdering a Cromwell, Minn. couple. The BCA built their case against the man in partnership with local law enforcement.
- The BCA developed and is deploying its electronic charging service, eCharging, statewide. Once implemented, eCharging is expected to save at least 45 minutes per criminal complaint resulting in 75,000 fewer total staff hours per year and 30 minutes per DWI arrest resulting in 20,000 fewer total staff hours per year.

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