

FILED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

JUL 28 2005

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BY _____
DEPUTY CLERK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

v.

Jonathan R. Hassler

CASE NUMBER:

205 - MJ 00214 KM

I, Melissa Peyton, the undersigned complainant being duly sworn state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief as follows: (Track Statutory Language of Offense)

- **Count 1.** Between on or about May 25, 2005, and on or about July 28, 2005, in the Eastern District of California and elsewhere, defendant Hassler did knowingly receive and distribute, via computer, visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, which depictions had been transported in interstate commerce, to wit: the defendant, using a computer and modem, received and transported, via the Internet and interstate commerce, numerous files, including but not limited to Moving Picture Experts Group (MPG files), all of which, as the defendant then knew, contained visual depictions, the production of which involved the use of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and which depictions were of such conduct as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2).
- **Count 2.** Between on or about May 25, 2005, and on or about July 28, 2005, in the Eastern District of California and elsewhere, the defendant did knowingly possess one or more matters which contained visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, which were produced using materials which had been mailed, shipped, and transported in interstate and foreign commerce, and which visual depictions were transported and shipped in interstate and foreign commerce, and the production of which visual depictions involved the use of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B).

I further state that I am a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

- ▶ See attached affidavit.

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof.

Melissa A. Peyton, SA FBI

Signature of Complainant Melissa Peyton, FBI

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence

7/28/05

at Sacramento, California

Date

City and State

Kimberly J. Mueller
United States Magistrate Judge

Kimberly J. Mueller

Signature of Judicial Officer

Name and Title of Judicial Officer

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT AND ARREST WARRANT

I, Melissa Peyton, do swear and affirm as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

2. I am aware of an investigation being conducted by FBI Special Agent Michael Skeen, presently assigned as the Senior Resident Agent of the Redding Resident Agency in Redding, California. I know that Agent Skeen, as a part of my official duties, investigates cases of sexual exploitation of minors and has previously participated in numerous investigations of this nature. I know from Agent Skeen that the subject of his current investigation is Jonathan Ray Hassler whom he believes has been involved in the illegal trading, distribution, and/or possession of images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B).

3. I am familiar with the information contained in this affidavit, having learned it primarily from Agent Skeen, as well as through discussions with other law enforcement officers who have obtained information which they have reported to me.

4. On May 25, 2005, an individual using the internet identity of "jonnyreb442002@Yahoo.com" initiated online (internet) contact with an FBI undercover agent located in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area who was posing online as a 14-

year-old girl living in Pennsylvania (hereafter referred to as "M1"). "jonnyreb442002@Yahoo.com" made contact with M1 through the Yahoo internet chat room entitled, "Older MEN 4 Younger GIRLS:1." "jonnyreb442002@Yahoo.com" told M1 that first name was "John" and that he was 32 years old. During this internet chat John inquired about pictures of M1 and brought up the idea of John traveling to meet M1.

5. On June 7, 2005, and June 8, 2005, John re-contacted M1 through the internet. During the June 8, 2005, online chat conversation, John initiated sexually explicit conversation, John discussed exchanging photographs, and John discussed his intent to travel to meet M1.

6. On June 24, 2005, John re-contacted M1 through internet chat. John again initiated conversation about traveling to meet M1. John suggested meeting M1 on July 15, 2005. John discussed plans to fly to Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and get a hotel room for Friday and Saturday night. John then typed to M1, "well its up to u ucan stay with me both nights if u want." John asked M1 to wear something sexy and suggested that he could buy her "some nice lingerie." They discussed that M1 was afraid of pregnancy and John advised that he "will be protected."

7. During subsequent internet chat, John discussed and then showed M1, by providing a web link, alleged lingerie which he had ordered online for her from Victoria Secrets website. M1 had a

cover story of being a farm girl and a fan of country music including singer Gretchen Wilson. During the time period of the initial internet chats, M1 sent music video's of Gretchen Wilson to John via e-mail. John sent M1 a picture of himself via e-mail.

8. On June 28, 2005, John re-contacted M1 through internet chat. During this chat session, John described to M1 a "secret" from his past. John told M1 that when he was age 16 or 17 years old, John had a lengthy sexual relationship with a girl who was approximately eight years old. John described the detailed sexual abuse of this child, which he said he maintained for two years.

9. On July 1, 2005, John re-contacted M1 through internet chat. John initiated a conversation with M1 about bestiality. John discussed and played a movie for M1, via web cam, which depicted a woman having sex with a male dog. John then attempted to encourage and direct M1 to engage in sex with her dog.

10. On June 29, July 1, July 3, and July 5, 2005, John re-contacted M1 through internet chat. These internet chat sessions contained more conversations regarding the possibility of John traveling to Pennsylvania and the proposed sexual activity.

11. On July 6, 2005, John re-contacted M1 through internet chat. John told M1 how to download a newer version of Yahoo messenger software which would allow John to forward movies over

the internet to M1. This accomplished, John sent M1 the aforementioned bestiality movie.

12. On July 8, 2005, John re-contacted M1 through internet chat. After a brief conversation about the bestiality movie, John initiated an offer to send another movie to M1. John described this movie as involving "a little girl and a man." This movie was sent by John and viewed by M1. The movie depicted a female child approximately eight or nine years of age being graphically sexually exploited by an adult male. The movie was a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256, containing depictions of anal, vaginal, and oral sex.¹ The movie was not successfully captured and saved by M1 during the initial display by John. When first viewed on July 8, 2005, the movie was entitled, "Vicky's Compilation."

13. On July 12, 2005, M1 informed John via an offline message that she had lost the movie and wanted to see it again. During a subsequent chat with John, John re-transmitted the same movie to M1. On this occasion the movie was successfully captured and saved. The movie title displayed on this occasion was "mine.mpg." Also during this chat session, John gave an

¹ Although the child in the movie has not yet been identified, she appeared to be a real child, as opposed to a graphically created one, and I know from my training and experience that the technology does not yet exist to create movies of people that look real.

excuse for him not being able to travel to meet M1 and engage in sex with M1 on July 15, 2005, as planned. John provided information to M1 that he was a security guard and that he worked at a closed U.S. Air force base near Sacramento, California. John also stated to M1 that he is married and his wife's name is "Amber." John claimed that he and "Amber" have two girls, ages six and three. John stated that Amber works "with kids," specifically "teen girls" who have been taken from their parents for some reason or another.

14. On June 28, 2005, in response to an administrative subpoena, Yahoo provided identity information and "Login Tracker" documentation for the jonnyreb442002@Yahoo.com account. The jonnyreb442002@Yahoo.com account is subscribed to by Jon Hassler in Canby, California. The Yahoo information also revealed the alternate internet screen name for Jon Hassler of hassler@hdo.net. The Yahoo account is an active account which was created on August 2, 2003. It was noted that the login tracker information provided for June 6, 2005 through June 13, 2005, provides matches for the dates and times of the June 6, 2005, June 7, 2005, and the June 8, 2005, internet chats between John and M1.

15. On July 15, 2005, in response to an inquiry made with the FBI Innocent Images Unit in Maryland, it was revealed that the internet identity of jonnyreb442002@Yahoo.com had been

previously suspected of possible illegal conduct relating to internet usage. On September 21, 2003, an FBI agent in Salt Lake City, Utah, went online using an undercover persona of a female teenager using the internet screen name of "sweet_taffy2003". The agent went to the Yahoo Chat Room entitled "teens who like older men". While acting in this undercover capacity, the agent had contact with an unknown person identified as jonnyreb442002.

16. On July 19, 2005, in response to an administrative subpoena, Frontier Communications Corporation made available subscriber information for two Internet Protocol (IP) addresses which were used by jonnyreb442002@Yahoo.com during internet contacts with M1. IP address 67.139.116.220 was used on June 10, 2005. This IP address was used by account holder sfhcfrofrontiernet.net, with a full name and address of Modoc Indian Health Project, 1203 Oak Street, Alturas, California, telephone number 530-233-4591. IP address 65.37.67.65 was used on June 13, 2005. This IP address was used by account holder hassy@frontiernet.net, with a full name and address of John Hassler, 17683 Highway 299, Canby, California, telephone number 530-233-2264.

17. On July 21, 2005, John re-contacted M1 through internet chat. This was possibly in response to an offline message which M1 had left for John earlier in the day asking John where he had been. John said that he had been busy but that he missed M1.

Shortly thereafter, John offered, unsolicited, to send another movie to M1. John described this movie to feature "another little girl". John then sent M1 a movie entitled "Pedo - 10 yo willing daughter pthc.wmv. This movie was then viewed and saved by M1. The movie depicted a female child approximately eight or nine years of age. The child was graphically sexually exploited by an adult male. John told M1 that he possessed more movies such as those sent to M1.

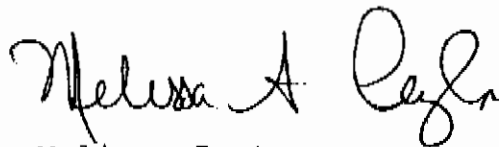
18. Further investigation has determined that a Jonathan R. Hassler holds a California driver's license with a listed address of P.O. Box 201 in Canby, California. Jonathan R. Hassler is 33 years old. A comparison of the driver's license photograph of Jonathan R. Hassler and the photograph which "John" had sent to M1 revealed that the photographs are of the same person. Further checks revealed that Jonathan R. Hassler applied with the California Social Services for a group home with 6+ children on September 17, 1999. On March 11, 2005, Jonathan R. Hassler applied with the California Security & Investigations in Sacramento to obtain a Private Investigators license as a security guard with a firearm. On May 24, 2005, Jonathan R. Hassler applied with the Alturas County Sheriff's Office for a permit to carry a concealed weapon. No criminal record has been located regarding Jonathan R. Hassler. Public information databases revealed that Jonathan R. Hassler has a household

member by the name of Amber R. Hassler and that they together have a telephone number of 530-233-2264. California driver's license information was also found for Amber Rose Hassler with the same listed address of P.O. Box 201 in Canby, California. There are two teen group homes located in Canby. In July, 2005, a former employee from the Modoc Health Project related to a law enforcement officer that as of January, 2005, Hassler worked at the Modoc Health Project as a maintenance worker and that he had access to the computers there. A check of EDD records corroborates that as of the 1st Quarter of 2005, the latest quarter for which records were currently available, Jonathan R. Hassler was employed by the Modoc Health Project.

19. On July 26, 2005, Magistrate Judge Kimberly J. Mueller authorized federal search warrants for 17683 Highway 299, Canby, California, and 1203 Oak Street, Alturas, California. On July 28, 2005 Agent Skeen went to 1203 Oak Street to execute the search warrant. Agent Skeen located Jonathan R. Hassler there, and began a consensual interview with him. Hassler admitted being in internet contact with the "girl from Pennsylvania." At that point Agent Skeen stopped the conversation and advised Hassler of his Miranda rights. Hassler waived those rights and told Agent Skeen that he used his laptop computer to view, transmit, and download child pornography. Hassler told Agent Skeen where the laptop was, gave him the password to enter the

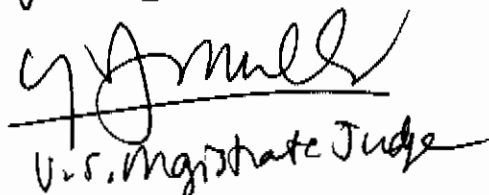
laptop, and told him under which directories the child pornography movies would be found. Agent Skeen confirmed Hassler's information and located the child pornography movies. Hassler admitted to Agent Skeen that he had sent a movie depicting child pornography to the "girl in Pennsylvania."

20. Based on the foregoing, I believe that probable cause exists for the arrest of Jonathan R. Hassler on charges of trading, distribution, and possession of images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B).



Melissa Peyton
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn and subscribed
before me this 20th day
of July 2015.



U.S. Magistrate Judge