

19-year old Massachusetts woman charged with sexually exploiting 4-year old child

A Lawrence resident was arrested last night and charged today in federal court in Boston with sexually exploiting a 4-year-old.

Jakob Nieves, who also goes by Dakota, 19, was charged with one count of sexual exploitation of children and one count of distribution of child pornography. Nieves appeared in federal court in Boston today and was ordered detained pending a detention hearing scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019.

According to the charging document, as part of an investigation into the use of Kik messenger for the trade of child pornography, a federal agent, acting in an undercover capacity, allegedly communicated with Nieves via Kik. In the course of those communications, Nieves sent the undercover agent images and videos that she produced that depict her sexually abusing a child.

It is alleged that when law enforcement executed a search warrant at Nieves' home on Aug. 14, 2019, she admitted to distributing images and videos of child pornography to a user she "met" in a Kik group geared toward individuals interested in pedophilia.

The charge of sexual exploitation of children provides for a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years and no greater than 30 years in prison. The charge of distribution of child pornography provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and up to 20 years in prison. Each charge provides for a minimum of five years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing

Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling and Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division, made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Anne Paruti, Lelling's Project Safe Coordinator and member of the Major Crimes Unit, is prosecuting the case.

The case is brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

The details contained in the charging document are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.