

US Attorney's Office announces \$11,000 recovery for victims in Massachusetts child exploitation case

Court orders turnover of funds held in defendant's inmate trust fund account.

The United States Attorney's Office announced today that U.S. Senior District Court Judge George A. O'Toole authorized turnover of the full amount of funds held in an inmate trust fund account to the victims of Christopher Saemisch.

In March 2019, Saemisch was convicted by a federal jury in Boston of distributing child pornography to a currently incarcerated federal inmate. In 1997, Saemisch was convicted in federal court for conspiring to sexually exploit children, aiding and abetting the sexual exploitation of children, conspiring to distribute and receive child pornography, and distributing and receiving child pornography. He was also convicted by a Kansas court in 1999 for aggravated indecent liberties with a child under 14.

Due to his prior convictions, Saemisch was sentenced by Judge O'Toole to 30 years in prison and a lifetime of supervised release in July 2019. Saemisch was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$18,000 to his 18 individual victims.

According to court documents, in April 2016, agents received information from a federal inmate that Saemisch, who at the time was living in Kansas City, Kansas, admitted to looking at and storing child pornography and wanting to travel to Europe to have sex with children. Saemisch boasted to the inmate about his access to children and his new job babysitting four

children. During their communications, Saemisch and the inmate used special coded language to discuss the collection and distribution of child pornography. The inmate confirmed that he and Saemisch used the code word "antiques," when referring to child pornography and the code word "puppies," to refer to children. On May 3, 2016, agents, pretending to be the inmate, began communicating with Saemisch. During the monitored conversations on various messaging apps and web platforms, Saemisch directed the undercover agents to set-up accounts to receive and exchange child pornography. He also sent them child pornography that he had stored on various file storage sites. Saemisch was arrested on May 6, 2016, while attending an event at a nudist campsite.

Upon learning that Saemisch had approximately \$11,000 in funds in his inmate trust fund account, the United States filed a motion for turnover of these funds for the payment of restitution ordered to his victims. On Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, Judge O'Toole issued an order granting turnover of the full amount of the funds.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins; Matthew B. Millhollin, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; and Michael Smith, Northeast Regional Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Raquelle Kaye of Rollins' Asset Recovery Unit handled the restitution aspects of this case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys James Herbert and Anne Paruti of Rollins' Criminal Division prosecuted the case.