

Worcester Man Charged With Possessing Child Pornography

A Worcester man was charged in federal court in Worcester with possession of child pornography.

Michael Chapman, 62, was charged with one count of possession of child pornography. He appeared in federal court in Worcester yesterday and consented to a voluntary order of detention.

On July 2, 2017, Chapman allegedly uploaded two images depicting child pornography using his Skype account. Chapman is a registered Level 3 sex offender due to multiple prior convictions: In 2004, he was convicted of two counts of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 and three counts of obscene material; in 1994, he was convicted of transporting in interstate commerce a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; and, in 1984, he was convicted of rape of a child and four counts of lewd and lascivious acts.

The charge provides for a sentence of no greater than 20 years in prison, five years and up to a lifetime of supervised release, and a fine of \$250,000. Due to prior convictions, Chapman faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 10 years in prison. 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; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division; Peter C. Fitzhugh, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; Massachusetts State Police Superintendent Colonel Kerry Gilpin; and Worcester Police Chief Steven M. Sargent

made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle L. Dineen Jerrett of Lelling's Worcester Branch Office 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 complaint are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.