

PRESS RELEASE

Former Journalist Pleads Guilty to Child Sexual Abuse Material Charges

Friday, July 21, 2023

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**For Immediate Release**

U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – An Arlington man pleaded guilty today to transportation and possession of child sexual abuse material.

According to court documents, while visiting South Carolina in February 2020, James Gordon Meek, 53, used an online messaging platform on his iPhone to send and receive images and videos depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and to discuss his sexual interest in children. Some of the images and videos depicted prepubescent minors and minors under the age of 12, including an infant being raped. Meek brought the iPhone containing the child sexual abuse material back with him when he returned to Virginia. Additionally, Meek possessed multiple electronic devices containing images and videos of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Meek is scheduled to be sentenced on September 29. He faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment for each charge. Actual sentences for federal crimes are typically less than the maximum penalties. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after taking into account the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Jessica D. Aber, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Kenneth A. Polite, Jr, Assistant Attorney General of the Justice Department's Criminal Division; and David Sundberg, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI Washington Field Office, made the announcement after U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton accepted the plea.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Zoe Bedell and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Whitney Kramer are prosecuting the case.

This case was investigated by the FBI Washington Field Office's Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force. The task force is composed of FBI agents, along with other federal agents and detectives from northern Virginia and the District of Columbia. The task force is charged with investigating and bringing federal charges against individuals engaged in the exploitation of children and those engaged in human trafficking. Valuable assistance was provided by the Arlington County Police Department.

This case was also brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.justice.gov/psc.

A copy of this press release is located on the website of the [U.S. Attorney's Office](#) for the Eastern District of Virginia. Related court documents and information are located on the website of the [District Court](#) for the Eastern District of Virginia or on [PACER](#) by searching for Case No. 1:23-cr-65.

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Topic

PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD

Components

[Criminal-Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section](#) | [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#) | [USAO-Virginia, Eastern](#)

Related Content

PRESS RELEASE**Virginia Beach Man Pleads Guilty to Producing Child Sexual Abuse Material**

A Virginia Beach man pleaded guilty today to production and distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

November 29, 2023

PRESS RELEASE**New York Man Pleads Guilty to Producing Child Sexual Abuse Material**

NORFOLK, Va. – An Angola, New York, man pleaded guilty today to producing child sexual abuse material.

November 14, 2023

PRESS RELEASE**Registered Sex Offender Sentenced for Distributing Child Sexual Abuse Material**

NORFOLK, Va. – A Ruther Glen man was sentenced yesterday to 15 years in prison for distributing child sexual abuse material.

November 9, 2023



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