



Owensboro Police Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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Man pleads guilty in Federal Court to Sexual Abuse of a Minor.

****UPDATE** - On November 17, 2022 Christopher R. Bertolett plead guilty to 4 federal charges related to an Owensboro Police Department investigation. The United States Secret Service and United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Kentucky assisted in the investigation. Bertolett was sentenced to 30 years in Federal Prison for these charges.**

The Owensboro Police Department is committed to using every resource available including our Federal partners to ensure individuals who target juveniles serve significant sentences in the federal system. See the attached Press Release from the United States Department of Justice for additional information.

****UPDATE** - After a search warrant was obtained and executed on Mr. Bertolett's cell phone, evidence was collected portraying the juvenile in a sexual manner. Mr. Bertolett has received additional charges of 14 Counts of Use of a Minor (U/16) in a Sex Performance and 1 Count of Prohibited use of Electronic Communication Systems to Procure a Minor for Sex Offenses.**

On Monday, May 10th, 2021 at approximately 11:33 am, the Owensboro Police Department responded to Owensboro Health Regional Hospital for a reported juvenile sexual assault. Detectives determined the 14-year-old female victim had been contacted via social media by the suspect, Christopher R. Bertolett (53 years old of Ballwin, MO). Based upon the investigation, it is believed that Mr. Bertolett travelled to Owensboro with the intent to engage in a sexual encounter with the juvenile at a local hotel. At the time Mr. Bertolett was located by

officers, he was in the process of checking out of the hotel and leaving Owensboro. Mr. Bertolett has been charged with Rape 3rd Degree and three counts of Sodomy 3rd Degree.

Detectives are continuing to investigate and anyone with additional information can call OPD at 270-687-8888, or leave an anonymous tip with Crime Stoppers at 270-687-8484.



THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

United States Attorney's Office
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Saint Louis Man Sentenced to 30 Years in Federal Prison for
Sexually Exploiting a 14-year-old Owensboro Girl**

Owensboro, KY – Christopher Bertolett was sentenced yesterday to 30 years in prison for violating federal child exploitation laws.

U.S. Attorney Michael A. Bennett of the Western District of Kentucky, Special Agent in Charge Rob Holman of the United States Secret Service, Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron, and Chief Arthur Ealum Jr. of the Owensboro Police Department made the announcement.

Bertolett, 54, previously pled guilty to online enticement of a minor, transfer of obscene material to a minor, production of child pornography, and interstate travel to engage in illegal sexual activity.

In the change of plea hearing, Bertolett admitted that in January 2021, he met a 14-year-old girl through an online software application. The girl lived in Owensboro, Kentucky and Bertolett lived in Saint Louis, Missouri. The two communicated online from January 2021 until May 2021. Bertolett and the girl discussed a variety of topics while communicating online, including sexual activity. On or about February 4, 2021, Bertolett sent the 14-year-old girl pictures of his genitalia. On or about May 9, 2021, Bertolett rented a car and drove from Saint Louis to Owensboro where he met the girl, drove her to an Owensboro motel, and sexually exploited her. Law enforcement officials arrested Bertolett on May 10, 2021.

In addition to the 30-year prison sentence, Bertolett was ordered to pay the victim \$10,000.00 in restitution. He was also ordered to serve a life term of supervised release after his release from prison. There is no parole in the federal system.

Assistant United States Attorneys Jo E. Lawless and Raymond McGee prosecuted the case.

The United States Secret Service, the Kentucky Office of Attorney General's Department of Criminal Investigations, and the Owensboro Police Department conducted the investigation.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit

www.usdoj.gov/psc. For more information about internet safety education, please visit www.usdoj.gov/psc and click on the tab “resources.”

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