



Department of Justice

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MADISON MAN SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS IN PRISON FOR RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Thomas Valley Posed as Teenaged Boy on Social Media Sites and Convinced Teenaged Girls to Send Him Sexually Explicit Pictures

MADISON, WIS. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Thomas Valley, 28, Madison, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to two counts of receiving child pornography. This prison term will be followed by a lifetime period of supervised release. Valley pleaded guilty to these charges on April 23, 2013.

Valley initially came to the attention of law enforcement when he distributed child pornography to an undercover special agent. A search warrant was executed at Valley's house and numerous computers, assorted media, rope, and handcuffs were seized.

Agents analyzed the computers found in the house and determined that Valley was also posing as a 13 year-old boy and making contact with high school girls on social media sites. Still acting as a 13 year-old, he convinced the girls to take sexually explicit pictures of themselves and send them to him. The defendant victimized approximately 60 girls in this way. It is the receipt of these images that form the basis of the federal charges.

In sentencing Valley, Judge Crabb called him a, "conniving, manipulative, self-absorbed young man," and said he was a danger to women in society. The judge believed the lengthy sentence was necessary to protect all the girls that were potential victims in the future.

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."

The charges against Valley were the result of an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Elizabeth Altman and Laura Przybylinski Finn.

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