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Kendall County, Illinois**



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14 Year Prison Sentence for Man Who Disseminated Child Pornography

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis announced that Michael A. Wicklatz, (dob: 12/22/1975, 14543 Lisbon Road, Unit A) of Newark, Illinois was sentenced to 14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections by the Honorable Robert Pilmer for two counts of Child Pornography, in an agreed plea and sentence earlier this month.

The charges stemmed from a lengthy investigation by the Kendall County Sheriff's Office after a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Detectives were able to find that Wicklatz had been having conversations with an individual he believed to be a 14-year-old female via a commonly used messaging application known as Kik. These conversations were graphic and sexual in nature. Also found in the investigation were videos of child pornography that the defendant had sent out via the same Kik application.

The investigation concluded with the arrest of Wicklatz in October of 2021. Wicklatz has remained the custody since that date.

State's Attorney Weis felt compelled to remind parents that they need to be aware of the different messaging applications that are commonly used by their children, and whom they are chatting with online. "Today, technology allows for communication that was thought impossible decades ago. Unfortunately, those that prey on children use it to commit these despicable crimes and make our children victims."

Wicklatz will have to register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life based upon the two convictions, and will serve 3 years to life on mandatory supervised release, formerly known as parole.

This matter was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Frank S. Gorup, and Wicklatz was represented by the Kendall County Public Defender's Office.