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Winston Man Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison for Possessing Child Pornography

Eugene, Ore. — Michael Bruce Hays, 42, of Winston, Oregon was sentenced to serve ten years in federal prison by U. S. District Judge Michael Hogan for possessing child pornography. Hays pled guilty on September 22, 2009, to possession of computer disks containing child pornography including pictures of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

The case arose from an undercover investigation into the distribution of child pornography via the Internet. The investigation led agents to obtain a search warrant for the defendant's computer. A search of his computer revealed over 16 thousand still images and over 300 videos containing child pornography. In pleading guilty, Hays admitted possession of pornographic material involving prepubescent minors, 16,373 still images and 301 videos containing child pornography. Court records show he admitted that the images show sadistic and masochistic conduct and other depictions of violence, and that he distributed child pornography in order to get more child pornography.

Upon release from custody, Hays will serve a ten year period of supervised release. Under supervised release he must abide by a number of conditions which include mental health counseling, restricted access to computers and the Internet, and registration as a sex offender.

The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Sean B. Hoar.

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