

Behavioral Health Specialist Sentenced To 15 Years For Enticing Minor Hospital Patient For Sex

by Dan Brannan, Content Director
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EAST ST. LOUIS – U.S. Attorney Steven D. Weinhoeft announced today Ricardo D. Minor, 40, of Cahokia, will be spending 15 years in federal prison for enticing a minor to have sex with him. Minor was sentenced to 180 months imprisonment for enticement of a minor; traveling with intent to have sex with a minor, and attempting to obstruct his prosecution.

Minor will also serve ten years of supervised release after release from prison.

The case was investigated by the Collinsville Police Department, the St. Louis County Police Department, and the FBI. Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott prosecuted the case.

According to court documents, the crimes occurred between June 14, 2017, and September 3, 2017, while Minor was working as a behavioral health specialist at a local hospital and the victim was a patient. Minor admitted that he used his cell phone and internet to contact the victim to have sex with him on several occasions in homes in Collinsville and Cahokia. Minor was also a driver for Uber and would take the victim with him on trips to have sex.

The U.S. Federal Court also heard evidence regarding other allegations of criminal and inappropriate sexual contact by Minor, including with patients receiving therapy at the same hospital. The obstruction charge was based upon the minor's activity between August 2017 and November 27, 2017. During this time, he attempted to obstruct his prosecution by contacting the victim and witnesses to get them to lie regarding his criminal conduct. One witness was asked to call the family of the victim to get the family not to pursue charges.

The court in sentencing Minor said that his conduct was "reprehensible" and noted that the 15-year sentence of imprisonment was needed to deter further criminal conduct.

After the sentencing, U.S. Attorney Steven D. Weinhoeft said, "This case is so egregious because the defendant preyed on a vulnerable victim who he knew was receiving behavioral health treatment."

He cautioned other parents with this statement: "The case serves to highlight how important it is for parents to monitor their children's internet and cell phone usage because sexual predators rely on their cell phones to gain access to victims."

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."