

Attorney General Raoul Charges Alton Man With Dissemination Of Child Pornography

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ALTON – Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced the Attorney General’s office has charged a Madison County man with alleged dissemination of child pornography. The case is part of Raoul’s ongoing work, in collaboration with federal

law enforcement agencies and local law enforcement officials throughout Illinois, to apprehend offenders who download and trade child pornography online.

Raoul's office charged Christopher L. Page, 36, of Alton, in Madison County Circuit Court with seven counts of dissemination of child pornography, Class X felonies each punishable by up to 30 years in prison. Page's bond was set at \$250,000.

"Child pornography is a reprehensible crime. The individuals who disseminate these horrific images must be held accountable to ensure innocent children are protected from exploitation that can potentially leave life-long emotional scars," Raoul said. "These charges highlight the vital efforts of my office's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which works tirelessly to identify and track down individuals who assault and exploit children."

Raoul's investigators, with the assistance of the Alton Police Department, the Edwardsville Police Department and the United States Secret Service, conducted a search of Page's residence in the 2700 block of Sanford Avenue in Alton and arrested him after discovering evidence of child pornography. Attorney General Raoul's office will prosecute the case.

"This is another example of effective policing being done through a multijurisdictional team effort," said Alton Police Chief Jarrett Ford. "The Alton Police Department was happy to assist the Illinois Attorney General's Office with this investigation, as it should be a warning to all that crimes against children will not be tolerated, whether that be in person or through the use of the internet."

"The U.S. Secret Service remains committed to supporting our partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies who work collectively to protect our community's children," said U.S. Secret Service Resident Agent in Charge Stephen Webster. "These dedicated agencies working in such seamless partnership with each other ensure that alleged predators are brought before our judicial system to answer for their charges."

The public is reminded the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The case is part of Attorney General Raoul's work to investigate and prosecute child pornographers in Illinois. Raoul's office, with a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, runs the [Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children \(ICAC\) Task Force](#) that investigates child exploitation crimes and trains law enforcement agencies. The task force receives CyberTips, or online reports of child pornography, from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Over the last several years, CyberTipline

reports have steadily increased. In 2021, reports to the ICAC increased by 42% over 2020.

Illinois' ICAC Task Force is one of 61 ICAC Task Forces throughout the country and is comprised of a network of more than 285 local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Since 2019, the Attorney General's ICAC Task Force has received more than 24,100 CyberTips and has been involved in more than 408 arrests of sexual predators. Since 2006, the Attorney General's ICAC Task Force has been involved in more than 1,840 arrests of sexual predators. The task force also has provided internet safety training and education to more than 962,779 parents, teachers and students, in addition to more than 23,250 law enforcement professionals.

Raoul reminds the public that online child sexual exploitation can be reported at www.cybertipline.com, and child abuse can be reported at dcfsonlinereporting.dcf.illinois.gov. In addition, local child advocacy centers can be found at www.childrensadvocacycentersofillinois.org.

Deputy Bureau Chief Shannon O'Brien is handling the case for Raoul's High Tech Crimes Bureau.