

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.
Court File No.

BEC-15-1812
07-CR-15-5259

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

WILLIAM EDWARD ROD DOB: 12/03/1980

5621 Minnetonka Blvd Apt #209
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Summons

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Solicit Child or Believe to be a Child Through Electronic Communication to Engage in Sexual Conduct

Minnesota Statute: 609.352.2a(1), with reference to: 609.352.4

Maximum Sentence: 3 years and/or \$5,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/30/2015 to 12/18/2015

Control #(ICR#): 15000710

Charge Description: William Edward Rod

On or between November 30, 2015 and December 18, 2015, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, William Edward Rod did, as a person 18 years of age or older, use the Internet, a computer, computer program, computer network, computer system, an electronic communications system, or a telecommunications, wire, or radio communications system, or other electronic device capable of electronic data storage or transmission to commit any of the following acts, with the intent to arouse the sexual desire of any person; to wit: soliciting a child or someone the person reasonably believes is a child to engage in sexual conduct.

COUNT II

Charge: Engage in Electronic Communication Relating or Describing Sexual Conduct with Child.

Minnesota Statute: 609.352.2a(2), with reference to: 609.352.4

Maximum Sentence: 3 years and/or \$5,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/30/2015 to 12/18/2015

Control #(ICR#): 15000710

Charge Description: William Edward Rod

On or between November 30, 2015 and December 18, 2015, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, William Edward Rod, did as a person 18 years of age or older, use the Internet, a computer, computer program, computer network, computer system, an electronic communications system, or a telecommunications, wire, or radio communications system, or other electronic device capable of electronic data storage or transmission to commit any of the following acts, with the intent to arouse the sexual desire of any person; to wit: engaging in communication with a child or someone the person reasonably believes is a child, relating to or describing sexual conduct.

COUNT III

Charge: Distribute via Electronic Communication Material that Relates/Describes Sexual Conduct to a Child

Minnesota Statute: 609.352.2a(3), with reference to: 609.352.4

Maximum Sentence: 3 years and/or \$5,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/30/2015 to 12/18/2015

Control #(ICR#): 15000710

Charge Description: William Edward Rod

On or between November 30, 2015 and December 18, 2015, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, William Edward Rod, did as a person 18 years of age or older, use the Internet, a computer, computer program, computer network, computer system, an electronic communications system, or a telecommunications, wire, or radio communications system, or other electronic device capable of electronic data storage or transmission to commit any of the following acts, with the intent to arouse the sexual desire of any person; to wit: distributing any material, language, or communication, including a photographic or video image, that relates to or describes sexual conduct to a child or someone the person reasonably believes is a child.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Special Agent Ben Rittmiller states that on the dates in question, he was assigned to the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. On November 30 through December 18, 2015, Special Agent Rittmiller was involved in an investigation that focused on the use of Craigslist by individuals who were seeking to have a sexual encounter with children/juveniles. Through training and investigation, and the use of undercover agents, S.A. Rittmiller was aware that individuals tend to be specific in their requests. An undercover agent searched for individuals and presented to them that the undercover officer was a 14-year-old female child based upon posts and requests.

On November 30, 2015, the undercover electronically accessed the Casual Encounters section of the Mankato Craigslist and typed the word "teen" in the search engine. Upon doing so, the undercover found an ad titled in part, "Seeking my teenage fantasy ' M4W." The add appeared to be posted by a 33-year-old white male that read, in part, "I never had much of an occasion when I was younger to have fun with a teen girl, and I want to change that! There's something about that nice, firm skin, sex appeal and how they take care of themselves, and smile that just can't be beat! I'm a WM, 33."

Posing as a 14-year-old girl, the undercover responded to the ad. Various electronic communications were exchanged between an individual subsequently identified as William Edward Rod. The exchanges were sexual in nature, and Rod sent the undercover agent a photograph of an erect penis between female breasts. Other photos were exchanged and conversations ensued of a sexual nature and plans to meet in Mankato. The undercover had also mentioned to Rod that the 14-year-old female would be at the Mall of America to Christmas shop with her mother.

On December 3, 2015, the undercover provided a telephone number through the exchange. The undercover received a poster, who initially identified himself as "Bill," with a phone number. The exchanges continued to be sexual in nature and discussing Rod driving to Mankato to meet with the purported 14-year-old girl. Rod did not show up on Friday, December 4, as was previously arranged to meet. Later, Rod replied, "Hey, I'm sorry, just woke up, got too drunk last night. Never did get a pic from you tho'." Electronic communications were again exchanged on December 13, 2015, and again between December 15, 2015 and December 18, 2015. The messages were sexual in nature and discussing meeting at the Mall of America on Friday, December 18, 2015.

Through text messaging, the undercover received word from Rod that he was at the Mall of America and he asked, "You ditch mom?" The undercover responded, "Ya." Rod was identified and subsequently arrested at the Mall of America near the planned meeting place. In a post-Miranda statement, Rod admitted that he arrived at the Mall of America for a sexual encounter with a juvenile female.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Benjamin C Rittmiller
Special Agent
1430 Maryland Avenue E
St. Paul, MN 55106
Badge: 1367

Electronically Signed:
12/23/2015 10:06 AM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Patrick R. McDermott
Assistant Blue Earth County
Attorney
401 Carver Road
PO Box 3129
Mankato, MN 56002
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:
12/23/2015 09:29 AM

