

NEWS RELEASE



Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
71 Monument Park
Freehold, New Jersey 07728
732/ 431-7160
Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor

HOWELL MAN ARRESTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

On June 3, 2010, Michael Bryk, 28, of Howell Township, N.J., was arrested by Detectives from the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and charged with one count of second degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child and two counts of fourth degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child. The charges result from an investigation which was conducted by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. The investigation revealed that Bryk possessed videos of child pornography, and that he also distributed images of child pornography.

The Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office commenced the investigation following a referral from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children ("N.C.M.E.C.") and the New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children ("I.C.A.C.") Task Force. In September of 2009, N.C.M.E.C. received information that images depicting child pornography had been uploaded to a social networking site from a computer located in Monmouth County. The ensuing investigation conducted by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office revealed that the images originated from a computer located at Bryk's residence.

The investigation led to a lawful search of Bryk's home on June 3, 2010. The search resulted in the lawful seizure of a computer as well as related computer storage media. A preliminary search of these items revealed the presence of videos of child pornography on a SD storage card.

Bryk is being held at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of \$80,000 bail which was set by Howell Township Municipal Court Presiding Judge Allen S. Kaplan. Conditions of Bryk's bail prohibit Bryk from using the Internet, and from having contact with children who are less than 18 years of age.

Under New Jersey law, the unlawful possession and distribution of images of child pornography is prohibited by the Endangering the Welfare of a Child statute. If the child pornography is merely unlawfully possessed, the Endangering the Welfare of a Child charge is a fourth degree crime. If the child pornography is unlawfully distributed, the Endangering the Welfare of a Child charge is a second degree crime. If convicted of second degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Bryk faces a maximum potential custodial sentence of up to a 10 year State Prison term. If convicted of fourth degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Bryk faces a maximum potential custodial sentence of up to an 18 month term of imprisonment.

Despite these charges, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and State law.

The case is assigned to Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Kevin M. Clark, Director of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office's Computer Crimes Unit. Defense counsel has not yet entered an appearance with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office on behalf of Bryk.

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