

NEWS RELEASE



Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
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REFERRAL FROM AUTHORITIES IN NEW YORK STATE LEADS TO ARREST OF BELMAR MAN ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

On August 5, 2010, John W. Ludlow, 58, of Belmar, N.J., was arrested by Detectives from the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and charged with one count of fourth degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child for possessing child pornography, three counts of second degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child for distributing child pornography, three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child for manufacturing child pornography, and one count of violating the conditions of his Community Supervision for Life, a fourth degree crime. The charges result from an investigation which was conducted by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office's Computer Crimes Unit after being initiated by the Suffolk County (New York) Police Department.

The investigation began when a Detective from the Suffolk County Police Department came into possession of several videos of child pornography which had been sent from a computer which was ultimately traced to Ludlow's residence. Because Ludlow's residence is located within Monmouth County, the Suffolk County Police Department referred the investigation to the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office.

A lawful search of Ludlow's residence was conducted on August 6, 2010, by members of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, the Belmar Police Department, the Long Branch Police Department and the New Jersey State Police. The search resulted in the lawful seizure of a computer and other electronic devices containing images and videos of child pornography. The investigation determined that some of the images and videos were produced by Ludlow himself. The images and videos depict the intimate parts of at least one partially clothed or completely nude minor female child, whose identity has been confirmed by law enforcement authorities. It has not yet been determined whether any of the images or videos depict any children other than the one who has been identified.

Notwithstanding Ludlow's arrest on these charges, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office's investigation into Ludlow's criminal activities remains active and ongoing. Any members of the public who are in possession of any information about Ludlow's potentially

criminal activities are asked to contact Detective Richard Bruccoliere of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office's Computer Crimes Unit, and/or Detective John Maggs of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office's Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit, at 1- 800/ 533-7443. An image of Ludlow which was taken by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission in November 2008 is attached to this News Release in order to assist members of the public in ascertaining whether they possess information regarding Ludlow.

Ludlow is being held at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of bail in the amount of \$605,000.00 which was set by Belmar Municipal Court Judge Dennis Lavender. As a condition of the bail, Judge Lavender ordered that Ludlow is prohibited from using the Internet and also from having contact with children who are less than 18 years of age.

Under New Jersey law, the unlawful possession, distribution or manufacture of images and videos 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 or manufactured, the Endangering the Welfare of a Child charge is a second degree crime.

If convicted of second degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Ludlow faces a maximum potential custodial sentence of up to a 10 year State Prison term on each charge. If convicted of fourth degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Ludlow faces a maximum potential custodial sentence of up to an 18 month custodial term on each charge. Violating the terms of community supervision is also a fourth degree crime and carries with it a maximum potential custodial sentence of up to an 18 month custodial term.

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 Ludlow.

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