



Warren C. Evans
Sheriff

News Release

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Caught in the act! Deputies arrest man in the process of downloading child porn

◆ ***42-year-old Lincoln Park man said to be an advocate of pedophilia***

Wayne County Sheriff's Deputies have arrested a Lincoln Park man they say has hundreds of images of child pornography on his computer and was in the process of downloading more when officers entered his home on Tuesday armed with a search warrant, Sheriff Warren Evans announced today.



Evans said his officers arrested James Patrick Finn, 42, after seizing his home computer to search it for evidence. Evans said his investigators were acting on community complaints about Finn's behavior and credible information that he may possess child pornography.

What was discovered when they entered the residence surprised even veteran officers, Evans said. "An initial forensic review of Mr. Finn's computer indicates that he was actually in the process of downloading child pornography when our officers entered his home," Evans said.

"That's the investigative equivalent of lightning striking when and where you want it to."

According to Evans, his investigators became aware of Finn after a flyer had been circulated throughout his neighborhood claiming that Finn is a "pedophile activist" who is a member or co-founder of numerous online pedophile websites and forums, including "Boychat," and the "Free Spirits Coalition."

"Most pedophiles hide their perversion. Mr. Finn, however, appears to be someone who makes no bones about enjoying at least the idea of having sex with children," Evans said.

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A more thorough review of Finn's computer revealed approximately 30 digital movies and 586 pictures showing children in sexually exploitive and abusive situations. Evans said his investigators are attempting to determine whether Finn was generating child pornographic images or simply downloading them.

Suspect may have real victims

Evans also said his office has received information to suggest that Finn may have had sexual contact with children in the past. "We have taken that information and turned it over to the Lincoln Park Police Department for their review and follow up," Evans said.

Evans said he didn't know whether Finn has any actual molestation victims, saying only, "where there's smoke, there's often fire. From what we know at this point, Mr. Finn appears to have been fascinated with child molestation for many years. Having seen enough of these types of cases, I believe it would be hard for someone with urges that strong to resist them for such a long period of time."

Finn, who works doing masonry, was arraigned on Thursday in Lincoln Park District Court on three charges of possession of child pornography (7 year felony) and three counts of using the Internet to download child pornography (20 year felony). Evans said that Finn may face additional charges in Lincoln Park depending on the outcome of its investigation.

Finn is being held at the Wayne County Jail on \$250,000 cash bond.