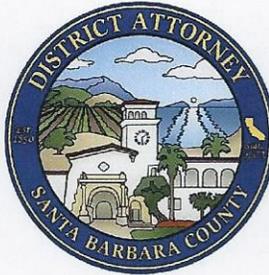


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



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RELEASE NUMBER

February 7, 2014

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APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

February 7, 2014

Re: People v. Scott Kurtis Childers

Santa Barbara District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Scott Kurtis Childers pled guilty to charges of burglary, possession of child pornography, and (electronically) contacting minors with the intent to commit a sex crime. Childers, age 25, of Santa Maria, California, was sentenced to 10 years and 8 months in state prison. He will also have to register as a sex offender for life and pay restitution to the victims.

The investigation by Santa Maria Police Department discovered that Childers entered a neighbor's home and strategically placed and concealed a portable video camera in a 13-year-old girl's bedroom and bathroom. He recorded the victim while in the shower and her bedroom. These acts constituted first degree residential burglaries and possession of child pornography.

Investigators then obtained a search warrant for Childers' computer and social media accounts, which led to the discovery of Childers' electronic contact with several minors over the internet. Childers used an alias of "Ryan Colt" and claimed to be a 16-year-old boy. He then had electronic (not physical) sexual contact with several girls between the ages of 14 and 17.

At sentencing, the mother of Jane Doe #1 gave a victim impact statement on behalf of her daughter. She spoke about how the defendant sexually exploited her daughter during her most private and intimate times by planting and concealing his video camera and how the defendant took advantage of the trust he had with their family. She hopes that the defendant realizes the full impact of his crime and gets help for his problems in prison.

District Attorney Dudley stated that, "This case illustrates the strong nexus between child pornography and child victimization. The investigation and prosecution of this case ensures that this dangerous individual will be removed for at least some time from our community, during which time he cannot harm anymore children."

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