



**BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CYBER CRIMES TASK FORCE**

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**Primary Agencies:**

Boone County Sheriff's Dept.  
Boone County Prosecuting  
Attorney's Office  
University of Missouri Police  
Department  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Media Release**

Incident: Plea - Defendant Sentenced—20 years.

Location: Boone County

Case Number: 2015-3710

**Associate Agencies:**

Ashland Police Department  
Auxvasse Police Department  
Boonville Police Department  
Centralia Police Department  
Columbia Police Dept.  
Fayette Police Department  
Fulton Police Department  
Hallsville Police Department  
Holt's Summit Police Dept.  
Jefferson City Police  
Department  
Mexico Department of Public  
Safety  
Moberly Police Department  
Sturgeon Police Department  
Audrain County Sheriff's Office  
Cooper County Sheriff's  
Department  
Callaway County Sheriff's  
Department  
Howard County Sheriff's  
Department  
Randolph County Sheriff's  
Department

**Details:**

On Friday, January 20, 2017, the defendant, Steven O'Neill of Boone County pled guilty in Boone County court to 3 counts Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, (20 years per count), 1 count Possession of Child Pornography (7 years), and 1 count felony Invasion of Privacy (4 years) to be served concurrent to all counts.

**Original Case:**

On August 10, 2015, a 35 year old Columbia man, Steve O'Neill, was arrested for sexual exploitation of a minor, less than 14, possession of child pornography and Invasion of Privacy 2<sup>nd</sup> degree.

The investigation began August 5, 2015 when the Cyber Crimes Task Force received a CyberTip report from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. An anonymous person reported a person in the Columbia area, Steve O'Neal was in possession of child pornography.

An investigator with the Task Force contacted several individuals that led the Task Force to the suspect's residence. A Task Force forensic examiner completed an on scene preview of a computer thought to be involved. During the preview, investigators determined the computer contained numerous images created by the suspect who had videotaped and photographed females without the victim(s) knowledge while in various state of undress. Investigators learned one of the victims to be a child less than 14 years old.

After a complete thorough forensic examination, additional evidence and information was discovered leading the Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's office to amend charges and furthermore, additional charges were added.

The Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force is comprised of investigators from the Boone County Sheriff's Department, the University of Missouri Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's office.

This project is supported by funds made available through the State of Missouri Cyber Crimes Grant administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

The Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force is part of the Missouri Internet Crimes against Children Task Force.

Release date & time: January 20, 2017 @ 1600 hrs  
Release Authorized by: Detective Tracy Perkins

