

West Bridgewater Man Who Rented A Room at a Day Care Arrested for Child Pornography

A West Bridgewater man was arrested yesterday for allegedly receiving child pornography from an online communication application.

Juan Levano, 23, was charged by criminal complaint with one count of receipt of child pornography. Levano was arrested yesterday morning and, following an initial appearance in federal court in Boston, remains in federal custody.

According to the charging documents, an investigation into an internet-based communications application used for the trafficking of child pornography identified Levano as a likely user of the platform who participated in at least two groups where child pornography was disseminated.

Search warrants were executed yesterday at the residence where Levano resides and seized various electronic devices. According to the charging documents, Levano rented a room at the residence, which is registered as a residential daycare. Both Levano and the owner of the residence denied that Levano worked at the residential daycare and denied that Levano had any contact with the children who attend it.

It is alleged that Levano admitted to being a member of several groups on the chat application and obtaining child pornography from those groups – estimating that his collection included imagery of children ranging from infancy to 13 years old. A preliminary review of Levano's phone allegedly revealed that Levano was a member of several active groups on the platform that included the exchange of child pornography. It

is further alleged that more than 100 video and image files were identified, most of which appear to depict child pornography, and stored in a photo application on Levano's phone. Forensic analysis of the seized devices is ongoing.

The charge of receipt of child pornography provides for a sentence of at least five years and up to 20 years in prison, at least five years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of up to \$ 250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Members of the public who have questions, concerns or information regarding this case should call 617-748-3274.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy and Michael J. Krol, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New England made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the West Bridgewater Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica L. Soto of the Office's Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse, launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/psc>.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.