

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 18 SEPTEMBER 2015

RE: EX-TEACHER PLEADED GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Collin Chapman (50) pleaded guilty in the Durban Regional Court yesterday to 230 charges relating to the creation and possession of child pornography as well as the grooming and exploiting of children for the production of child pornography.

The accused, a teacher for 23 years, was employed at a prominent Durban boy's high school as a drama theatre manager and locum teacher when the offences took place against the two complainants.

The first complainant was a student at the school when the accused started chatting to him via Blackberry Messenger (BBM). The accused purchased photographs from the complainant. Initially he asked for pictures of the boy without a shirt and this gradually progressed to requests for pictures of his genitals. The accused also invited the child to his house where the boy posed naked for sexually explicit photographs. He also made a video recording of the child showering.

The second complainant was also known to the accused and they too began chatting on BBM. He sent the child sweets and chocolates and paid him R200 for a picture of his genitals. He later paid R500 for pictures of the boy sexually gratifying himself.

In his plea, the accused acknowledged that he knew that the boys were under 18 years-old and that he intended to procure these pictures and videos for his keeping.

The Regional Court Prosecutor Jerome Gnanapragas told the court that the offences were serious and that the accused took advantage of the complainants as he was in a position of trust.

The accused was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment as well as a fine of R100 000 to be donated to the Open Door Crisis Care Centre in Pinetown by 23 September 2015. The court further ordered that his name be entered into the sexual offenders register. The accused was also declared unfit to work with children and ordered to attend the sexual offenders programme run by the Department of Correctional Services whilst in custody.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Adv Moipone Noko welcomes the sentence. "We hope that it has a deterrent effect on those who contemplate such offences.

Further, this sentence should serve as an indication of our commitment to protect the children of this country.”

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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