

March 3, 2021

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: FAYETTE COUNTY MAN CHARGED WITH REPRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced that a Fayette County man was charged with reproducing and disseminating child pornography. The case is part of the Attorney General's ongoing work to apprehend offenders who download and trade child pornography online.

Ferrell Mason Kissiar, 44, of Vandalia, Ill., was charged in Fayette County Circuit Court with three counts of dissemination of child pornography, one Class X felony punishable by six to 30 years in prison and two Class 1 felonies punishable by four to 15 years in prison; one count of reproduction of child pornography, a Class X felony punishable by six to 30 years in prison; and two counts of possession of child pornography, one Class 2 felony punishable by up to three to seven years in prison and one Class 3 felony punishable by up to two to five years in prison. Kissiar's bond is set at \$250,000.

"Child pornography is a horrific crime that victimizes the child, the child's family and impacts the entire community," Raoul said. "The partnership between my office, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and local law enforcement is essential to locating offenders and ensuring they are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Raoul's investigators, with the assistance of the Vandalia Police Department, conducted a search of a residence Monday, March 1, in the 400 block of Poplar Street in Vandalia and arrested Kissiar after discovering evidence that he allegedly reproduced and disseminated child pornography. Kissiar is an assistant preacher at the United Pentecostal Church of Patoka and was recently a teacher's aide at Cornerstone Academy in Nokomis. Officials are encouraging residents who may have additional information to submit a tip to the Vandalia Police Department by calling 618-283-1986 or the Fayette County Sheriff's office via Facebook.

The Attorney General's office will prosecute the case along with the Fayette County State's Attorney's office.

"This arrest is the culmination of a tremendous amount of work by the Attorney General's investigators," said Fayette County State's Attorney Josh Morrison. "As Fayette County State's Attorney, I pledge to continue to do everything I can to protect the citizens of Fayette County from dangerous criminals and especially those who would seek to harm children."

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The arrest is part of Attorney General Raoul's work to investigate and prosecute child pornographers in Illinois. Raoul's office, with a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, runs the [Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children \(ICAC\) Task Force](#) that investigates child exploitation crimes and trains law enforcement agencies. Since 2006, the Attorney General's ICAC Task Force has been involved in more than 1,700 arrests of sexual predators. The task force has also provided internet safety training and education to more than 951,000 parents, teachers and students and more than 22,000 law enforcement professionals.