

July 29, 2020

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: LAKE COUNTY MAN CHARGED WITH CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
POSSESSION**

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced that a Lake County man was charged with possessing child pornography as part of the Attorney General's ongoing efforts to apprehend the most active offenders who download and trade child pornography online.

Darin Richardson, 50, of Zion, Ill., was charged in Lake County Circuit Court with 11 counts of possession of child pornography, which are Class 2 felonies punishable by up to 33 to 77 years in prison. Richardson's bond was set at \$300,000.

"Child pornography exploits children, often leaving victims with lifelong trauma," Raoul said. "The collaborations between the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and local law enforcement are essential to protecting children and keeping child pornography out of our communities.

Raoul's investigators, with the assistance of the Lake County Sheriff's office and the Lake County state's attorney's office, conducted a search of a residence on Tuesday, July 28, on West State Line Road in Zion and arrested Richardson after evidence of alleged child pornography was discovered.

"I am very proud of the collaboration in this investigation and arrest, which led to the apprehension of a man who preyed on our most vulnerable," Sheriff John Idleburg said. "Child predators commonly lurk in the shadows of the internet. I cannot stress it enough: parents, please be proactive in monitoring who your children communicate with online."

Richardson was previously court-martialed and found guilty in 1991 of committing an indecent act upon a male under the age of 16, committing an indecent act upon a female under the age of 16, taking indecent liberties with a male under the age of 16, and taking indecent liberties with a female under the age of 16. Richardson was dishonorably discharged from the U.S. Army and sentenced to six years confinement at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

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 950,000 parents, teachers and students and more than 22,000 law enforcement professionals.