

State of Minnesota
County of McLeod

District Court
1st Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 00911-24
Court File No. 43-CR-24-1595

State of Minnesota,

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff,

Summons

vs.

JASON CHRISTOPHER YATES DOB: 06/13/1969

20455 248th Circle
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Possession of Pornographic Work Involving Minors - Under 14

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3), with reference to: 617.247.4(b)

Maximum Sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/03/2023 to 07/31/2024

Control #(ICR#): 20240799

Charge Description: That on or about the time period February 3, 2023 and July 31, 2024, in McLeod County, Minnesota, Jason Christopher Yates possessed a pornographic work or a computer disk or computer or other electronic, magnetic, or optical storage system or a storage system of any other type, containing a pornographic work, knowing or with reason to know its content and character and the violation involved a minor under the age of 14 years. (Image #1)

COUNT II

Charge: Possession of Pornographic Work Involving Minors - Under 14

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3), with reference to: 617.247.4(b)

Maximum Sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/03/2023 to 07/31/2024

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COUNT III**Charge: Possession of Pornographic Work Involving Minors - Under 14**

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3), with reference to: 617.247.4(b)

Maximum Sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/03/2023 to 07/31/2024

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COUNT IV**Charge: Possession of Pornographic Work Involving Minors - Under 14**

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3), with reference to: 617.247.4(b)

Maximum Sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/03/2023 to 07/31/2024

Control #(ICR#): 20240799

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COUNT V**Charge: Possession of Pornographic Work Involving Minors - Under 14**

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3), with reference to: 617.247.4(b)

Maximum Sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/03/2023 to 07/31/2024

Control #(ICR#): 20240799

Charge Description: That on or about the time period February 3, 2023 and July 31, 2024, in McLeod County, Minnesota, Jason Christopher Yates possessed a pornographic work or a computer disk or computer or other electronic, magnetic, or optical storage system or a storage system of any other type, containing a pornographic work, knowing or with reason to know its content and character and the violation involved a minor under the age of 14 years. (Image #5)

COUNT VI**Charge: Possession of Pornographic Work Involving Minors - Under 14**

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3), with reference to: 617.247.4(b)

Maximum Sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/03/2023 to 07/31/2024

Control #(ICR#): 20240799

Charge Description: That on or about the time period February 3, 2023 and July 31, 2024, in McLeod County, Minnesota, Jason Christopher Yates possessed a pornographic work or a computer disk or computer or other electronic, magnetic, or optical storage system or a storage system of any other type, containing a pornographic work, knowing or with reason to know its content and character and the violation involved a minor under the age of 14 years. (Image #6)

COUNT VII

Charge: Possession of Pornographic Work Involving Minors - Under 14

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3), with reference to: 617.247.4(b)

Maximum Sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/03/2023 to 07/31/2024

Control #(ICR#): 20240799

Charge Description: That on or about the time period February 3, 2023 and July 31, 2024, in McLeod County, Minnesota, Jason Christopher Yates possessed a pornographic work or a computer disk or computer or other electronic, magnetic, or optical storage system or a storage system of any other type, containing a pornographic work, knowing or with reason to know its content and character and the violation involved a minor under the age of 14 years. (Image #7)

COUNT VIII

Charge: Possession of Pornographic Work Involving Minors - Under 14

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3), with reference to: 617.247.4(b)

Maximum Sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/03/2023 to 07/31/2024

Control #(ICR#): 20240799

Charge Description: That on or about the time period February 3, 2023 and July 31, 2024, in McLeod County, Minnesota, Jason Christopher Yates possessed a pornographic work or a computer disk or computer or other electronic, magnetic, or optical storage system or a storage system of any other type, containing a pornographic work, knowing or with reason to know its content and character and the violation involved a minor under the age of 14 years. (Image #8)

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

On July 31, 2024, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) Special Agent Gernentz interviewed a witness ("Witness #1") in reference to a child sexual abuse material ("CSAM") investigation. Witness #1 provided Agent Gernentz with a hard drive that contained suspected CSAM.

Witness #1 provided the following information. Witness #1 came into possession of the hard drive after a relative ("Witness #2") accidentally discovered it in the office of Jason Yates [Jason Christopher Yates (Date of Birth: June 13, 1969) ("Defendant")]. Witness #2 was related to Defendant. Witness #2 tried to put the device in Witness #2's computer for more storage. Witness #2 put the device into his computer and discovered a collection of CSAM. Witness #2 subsequently contacted Witness #1.

Witness #1 continued with the following information. Witness #1 kept the hard drive for safekeeping. Witness #1 was able to view some of its contents using Witness #2's computer. The contents included over 100 sexually explicit images of children.

On August 5, 2024, Agent Gernentz and a McLeod County child protection supervisor met with Witness #2. Witness #2 provided the following information. Witness #2 found a hard drive in a dresser in Defendant's office. The hard drive was an internal component and not a stand-alone hard drive. Witness #2 put the hard drive into Witness #2's computer and discovered the CSAM. Witness #2 put the hard drive back in a drawer in the dresser. Witness #2 did not know what to do. After talking with friends, Witness #2 contacted Witness #1.

Witness #2 said no one in the house uses Defendant's computer.

The following is a modified summary of information recovered from the hard drive.

Image 1: (Under 14)

File Name: 82f60b23549f4266.jpg

File PATH: Windows

(NTFS,6)\Users\JasonYates\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Explorer\thumbcache_256.db

Identified – Victim Identified per Griffey

*Created Date: 2/3/2023 2:48:06 AM

Description: Two visual copies of this file were found. The picture is of a female child approximately 9-12 years old. The child has what appears to be breast buds and has an onset of breast development but no signs of pubic hair/growth. The child is naked on a yellow/red flowered couch. The child's legs are spread and the focus of the picture is the child's exposed genital areas.

Image 2: (under 14)

File name: lfsx024x041.jpg

File Path: Windows (NTFS, 6)\Users\JasonYates\Downloads\temp

This file was downloaded to the hard drive/memory storage device.

*Created Date: 3/30/2023 8:46:01 AM

Description: This is a photo of a prepubescent child who is approximately 8-11 years of age. There are no signs of the onset of puberty. The child is wearing pink thigh-highs and a pink bow tie. The child's genitals are exposed/the focus of the picture.

Image 3: (under 14)

File Name: 374.jpg

File Path: Windows (NTFS, 6)\Users\JasonYates\Downloads\temp

This file was downloaded to the hard drive/memory storage device.

*Created Date: 3/30/2023 8:50:55 AM

Description: This is a photo of a prepubescent child who is approximately 8-11 years of age. There are no signs of the onset of puberty. The child has brown hair. The child is nude and the child is inserting a finger into their genitals.

Image 4: (Under 14)

File Name: 192.jpg

File Path: Windows (NTFS, 6)\Users\JasonYates\Downloads\temp

This file was downloaded to the hard drive/memory storage device.

*Created Date: 3/21/2023 2:35:54 PM

Description:

There are two visual copies of this file; only one file was described. The photo shows a female prepubescent child (no signs of the onset of puberty). The child is approximately 7-10 years of age. The photo appears to show an adult male's penis penetrating/having contact with the child's genitals.

Image 5 (Under 14)

File Name: 057.jpg

File Path: Windows (NTFS, 6)\Users\JasonYates\Downloads\temp

This file was downloaded to the hard drive/memory storage device.

*Created Date: 3/21/2023 2:32:52 PM/ The other file has a created date of 2/3/2023 2:48:06 AM

Description:

This is a photo of a child approximately 5-7 years of age. The child is lying on a pink futon with butterflies. The child is pulling her labia apart so that you can see inside of the child's genital opening, resulting in a lewd display of the child's genitals. There are multiple visual copies of this file, only one was described for this report.

Image 6: (Under 14)

File Name: 025.jpg

File Path: Windows (NTFS, 6)\Users\JasonYates\Downloads\temp

This file was downloaded to the hard drive/memory storage device.

*Created Date: 3/21/2023 2:33:06 PM

Description:

This is a photo of a child approximately 5-7 years of age. The child is lying in the grass. The child is naked from the waist down with a lewd display of the child's vaginal opening. The vaginal opening is redder than the rest of the vaginal area and there is a milky white substance similar in appearance to ejaculate coming out of the vaginal opening of the child.

Image 7: (Under 14 Penetration)

File Name: AZWMaryAnneFist13V_hevc_360p.mp4

File Path: Windows (NTFS, 6)\Users\JasonYates\AppData\Local\Temp\7zOCC75F06E

*Created Date: 2/22/2023 7:01:24 AM

Description: This is a video file that is 17 minutes and 32 seconds in length. There are 4 visual copies of the same file. This is a compilation video (multiple different images combined into one file) including numerous sex acts on multiple prepubescent children. One part of the video shows the child wearing a mask performing oral sex on an adult male. The video includes penetration of a prepubescent child, ejaculating onto the face of a prepubescent child, and an adult fisting an adult male. All of the children in this video appear to be under the age of 14 or prior to the onset of any signs of puberty in the children.

Image 8 (Under 14)

File Name: 1580964551811.jpg

Victim and Offender Identified per Griffey

File Path: Windows (NTFS, 6)\Users\JasonYates\Downloads\temp

This file was downloaded.

*Created Date: 3/21/2023 2:38:41 PM

Created Date-ExIF 8/17/2009 9:23:00 PM

Description:

This is a photo of a female child approximately 6-9 years of age, before the onset of puberty. The child has no breast, hips, or pubic hair development. The child is wearing glasses and lying on a bed with green/brown bedding. The child is wearing striped purple and black crotch-less leggings. The child's genitals are the focal point of the photo/lewd display of the genitals.

On September 13, 2024, BCA agents and a child protection supervisor met with Defendant and Defendant's attorney. During that meeting, Agent Gernentz clarified with Defendant that this was not Witness #2's collection of CSAM. Defendant confirmed the images on the storage device were not from Witness #2. Defendant stated he had a prior conviction, which had been expunged, related to CSAM/child pornography.

During the interview, Agent Gernentz informed Defendant that she was aware of his TOR encrypted files. Defendant was asked if he wanted to provide the password for those files. Defendant declined to provide the passcode for the files.

BCA Digital Media Examiner ("DME") Johansen located extensive evidence related to the possession of the CSAM material. DME Johansen generated individual time lime reports for 02/03/2023, 03/21/2023, and 03/30/23 which were dates of some of the CSAM downloads.

DME Johansen noted the default username associated with the storage device was Jason.yates@[organizational email address]. DME Johansen determined the domain user account JasonYates required a passcode to logon.

CSAM files viewed on 03/21/2023 included a created date and last modified date of 03/21/2023, and a last accessed date of 07/26/2024. This information was significant to Agent Gernentz because it indicated to her that the CSAM images were already on the device, prior to the reported discovery date.

Activity on 03/21/2023 includes in addition to CSAM activity, locally accessed files and folders to:

- C:\users\JASONYATES\downloads\lowermagnum.7z.
- C:\users\JASONYATES\downloads\CumQueen_20160204.mp4

BCA DME Johansen explained that after his earlier report was approved, DME Johansen was about to figure out the passcode for the encrypted files. DME Johansen indicated there were approximately 160 encrypted files that also contain CSAM material. DME Johansen indicated that some images show adult men having sex with children and most of these files were videos.

The office where the hard drive was found by Witness #2 was in McLeod County, Minnesota. At the applicable times, Defendant resided in McLeod County, Minnesota.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant	Katie Gernentz	Electronically Signed:
	Special Agent	10/23/2024 06:13 AM
	1430 Maryland Avenue E	Morrison County, kgernentz
	St. Paul, MN 55106	
	Badge: 1440	

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney	Kevin P O'Laughlin	Electronically Signed:
	Assistant McLeod County	10/22/2024 02:08 PM
	Attorney	
	830 11th Street E	
	Suite 112	
	Glencoe, MN 55336	
	(320) 864-1265	

MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL
BRANCH

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

Execute in MN Only

Execute Nationwide

Execute in Border States

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: October 23, 2024.

Judicial Officer

Jody Winters

Electronically Signed: 10/23/2024 09:40 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF MCLEOD
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Jason Christopher Yates

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE

I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Summons upon the Defendant herein named.

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

43-CR-24-1595
DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
10/23/2024

Name: Jason Christopher Yates
DOB: 06/13/1969
Address: 20455 248th Circle
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Alias Names/DOB:

SID:

Height:

Weight:

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Gender:

MALE

Race:

Fingerprints Required per Statute:

Yes

Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record:

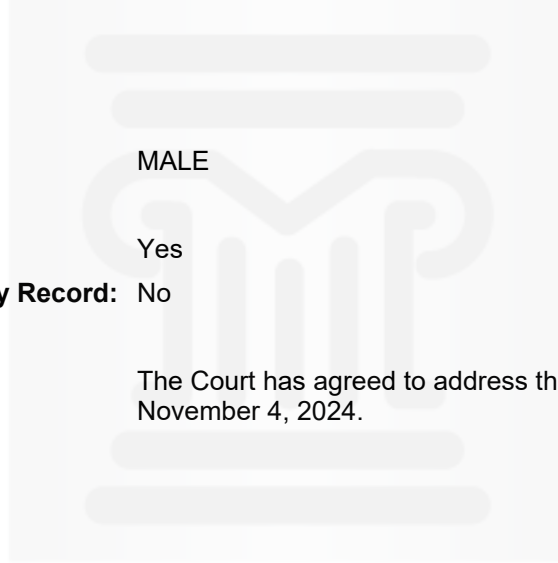
No

Driver's License #:

Case Scheduling Information:

The Court has agreed to address this potential summons at 10:00 a.m. on
November 4, 2024.

Alcohol Concentration:



MINNESOTA
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STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

Cnt Nbr	Statute Type	Offense Date(s)	Statute Nbrs and Descriptions	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Case Numbers
1	Charge	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b)(3) Possess Pornographic Work; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
	Penalty	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b) Possess Pornographic Work; Prior conviction; Registered predatory offender; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
2	Charge	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b)(3) Possess Pornographic Work; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
	Penalty	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b) Possess Pornographic Work; Prior conviction; Registered predatory offender; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
3	Charge	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b)(3) Possess Pornographic Work; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
	Penalty	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b) Possess Pornographic Work; Prior conviction; Registered predatory offender; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
4	Charge	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b)(3) Possess Pornographic Work; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
	Penalty	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b) Possess Pornographic Work; Prior conviction; Registered predatory offender; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
5	Charge	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b)(3) Possess Pornographic Work; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
	Penalty	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b) Possess Pornographic Work; Prior conviction; Registered predatory offender; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
6	Charge	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b)(3) Possess Pornographic Work; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
	Penalty	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b) Possess Pornographic Work; Prior conviction; Registered predatory offender; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
7	Charge	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b)(3) Possess Pornographic Work; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
	Penalty	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b) Possess Pornographic Work; Prior conviction; Registered predatory offender; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
8	Charge	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b)(3) Possess Pornographic Work; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799
	Penalty	2/3/2023	617.247.4(b) Possess Pornographic Work; Prior conviction; Registered predatory offender; Minor under 14	Felony	O1CD2	N	MNBCA0000	20240799