



## MID-MISSOURI INTERNET CRIMES TASK FORCE

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### Media Release

Incident: Guilty Plea

Location: Audrain County

Case Number: 2008-3187

Details: On March 1, 2010 a former Vandalia man plead guilty in Audrain County Circuit Court to two counts of Statutory Sodomy in the Second Degree involving a sixteen year old Audrain County girl.

This plea is the result of a joint investigation with the Mid-Missouri Internet Crimes Task Force and the Vandalia Police Department that initiated in late May 2008. The investigation indicates the defendant engaged in conversations with a sixteen year old Audrain County girl over the Internet and persuaded her to take sexually graphic photographs of herself and deliver those photographs to the defendant both in person and over the Internet. Authorities were alerted by the girl's family when inappropriate photographs of the victim were discovered by a family member on a household computer.

On May 30, 2008 detectives with the Mid-Missouri Internet Crimes Task Force and officers with the Vandalia Police Department served a court ordered search warrant on the defendant's residence in Vandalia, Missouri. As a result an extensive amount of evidence was seized including numerous computers, computer hard drives, documents, and a surveillance system were seized.

During the examination of the evidence, Mid-Missouri Internet Crimes Task Force detectives discovered evidence that the defendant had sexually assaulted the teen girl including evidence obtained from the surveillance equipment. In May 2009 the Audrain County Prosecuting Attorney's Office charged the defendant with two counts of Statutory Sodomy in the Second Degree. Subsequently the defendant plead guilty to those charges on March 1, 2010.

#### Primary Agencies:

Boone County Sheriff's Dept.  
Boone County Prosecuting  
Attorney's Office  
University of Missouri Police  
Department

#### Associate Agencies:

Jefferson City Police  
Department  
Ashland Police Department  
Auxvasse Police Department  
Boonville Police Department  
Centralia Police Department  
Columbia Police Dept.  
Fayette Police Department  
Fulton Police Department  
Hallsville Police Department  
Jefferson City Police  
Department  
Holt's Summit Police Dept.  
Mexico Department of Public  
Safety  
Moberly Police Department  
Sturgeon Police Department  
Audrain County Sheriff's Office  
Cooper County Sheriff's  
Department  
Callaway County Sheriff's  
Department  
Howard County Sheriff's  
Department  
Randolph County Sheriff's  
Department

The successful result of this investigation was a joint effort between the Vandalia Police Department, the Mid-Missouri Internet Crimes Task Force, and the Audrain County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. This is also a prime example of the benefit of agencies working together sharing resources and talents for a common cause.

The defendant is identified as 27 year old William Studer believed to currently be residing in Dixon, Illinois. Photographs of the defendant are not available from the Mid-Missouri Internet Crimes Task Force.

"Audrain County's citizens should be proud of the thorough investigation by all the law enforcement agencies involved in this case," said Audrain County Prosecuting Attorney Jacob Shellabarger. "It was only after countless hours of forensic analysis, interviews and good detective work that this case came together and resulted in a conviction. This plea agreement is intended to hold William Studer accountable for the serious crimes he committed against this young woman and our society."

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