



MID-MISSOURI INTERNET CRIMES TASK FORCE

2121 County Drive, Columbia, Missouri 65201
573-442-4302

E-Mail InternetCrimes@mmictaskforce.com
Web Site: WWW.MMICTASKFORCE.COM

Media Release

Member Agencies:

Primary Agencies:

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

Associate Agencies:

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
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

Incident: Impersonating a Police Officer Over the Internet

Location: Mid-Missouri

Case Number: 2010-4059

Details:

On October 4, 2010 Detectives with the Boone County Sheriff's Department assigned to the Mid-Missouri Internet Crimes Task Force and the Moberly Missouri Police Department concluded an investigation into a man posing as a Missouri law enforcement officer on the Internet.

The investigation began when a Moberly Missouri man reported his 15-year-old son was playing with a Play Station 3 over the Internet when he was contacted through the Interactive game by someone claiming to be a 10-year-old girl. According to the complaint, the girl asked personal questions about the boy such as who he was and where he lived and became sexually suggestive during the Internet conversation. When the boy refused to continue the instant message conversation, the girl then stated she was actually a police officer with the Missouri State Police conducting an undercover investigation.

The purported police officer then asked the 15 year old boy personal questions including his and his father's complete name. The 15-year-old boy became suspicious and contacted his father. The following morning the purported police officer sent an e-mail to at least one friend listed on the father's MySpace friends list. In that e-mail the person again claimed to be a police officer with the Missouri State Police Sex Crimes Unit and named the 15-year-old boy as a suspect in a police investigation regarding crimes against children. The boy's father was contacted by his friend regarding this e-mail after which the father contacted the Moberly Police Department who in turn contacted the Mid-Missouri Internet Crimes Task Force.

Missouri does not have a Missouri State Police and police Internet investigations are not conducted in this manner. During the joint investigation, an Internet account was identified in the northeast United States as where this incident originated. Law enforcement in the area where the suspect resides was contacted and an investigation in that area was initiated. Evidence was insufficient to proceed with criminal charges, however.

The Mid-Missouri Internet Crimes Task Force and the Moberly Police Department would like to warn parents, families, and the general public of this scam. Missouri law enforcement does not contact people over the Internet seeking personal information. If contacted by anyone over the Internet claiming to be a law enforcement officer, contact that officer's agency and verify the officer's identity before providing any information. We suggest personal information never be provided over the Internet or through e-mail to any person who is not personally known. This investigation also serves as an example how any interactive game or device with Internet access in addition to computers or cellular telephone can be used as an instrument to defraud and to contact minors.

All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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