

## BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CYBER CRIMES TASK FORCE

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## Media Release

## **Primary Agencies:**

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

## **Associate Agencies:**

Ashland Police Department Auxvasse Police Department **Boonville Police Department** Centralia Police Department Columbia Police Department 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 Cole County Sheriff's Department Cooper County Sheriff's Department Callaway County Sheriff's Department Howard County Sheriff's Department Randolph County Sheriff's Department

Incident: Child Pornography Arrest

Location: Howard County, Missouri

Case Number: 2014-0590

Details:

On Thursday, March 13, 2014 investigators with the Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force and the Howard County Sheriff's Department arrested a 28 year old Howard County man for suspicion of the distribution of child pornography.

This arrest stems from an investigation that began in early February 2014 when an investigator with the Cyber Crimes Task Force identified a home network believed to be in the Mid-Missouri area offering to disseminate child pornography though a file sharing program. The investigator also downloaded child pornography involving pre-pubescent children from this network on at least two different occasions.

During the ensuing investigation investigators identified the home network in question as a residence in rural Howard County west of Fayette. On Thursday morning March 13, 2014 investigators with the Cyber Crimes Task Force and the Howard County Sheriff's Department served a court ordered search warrant at the identified residence. As a result of an on-site investigation, investigators determined a nearby resident was accessing the wireless network at the target residence to reportedly distribute the child pornography. Investigators identified the suspect and recovered a laptop computer subsequently arresting the suspect.

The suspect is identified as 28 year old Joshua S. Barton of 169 County Road 302 Fayette, Missouri. The suspect was arrested for the suspicion of Promoting Child Pornography in the First Degree and is currently in the Howard County Jail pending the filing of formal charges. Photographs of the suspect can be obtained from the Howard County Sheriff's Department and Jail.

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

The Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force is comprised of investigators from the Boone County Sheriff's Department, the University of Missouri Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

This project is supported by funds made available through the State of Missouri Cyber Crimes Grant administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

The Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force is part of the Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is and supported by funding made available through MO ICAC from the US Department of Justice-Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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Release authorized by: Andy Anderson