

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
Peter F. Neronha
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island

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**NORTH KINGSTOWN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING
MORE THAN 7,500 IMAGES OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – A North Kingstown, R.I., man pleaded guilty in federal court in Providence today to being in possession of more than 7,500 images of child pornography. Leon Tousignant, 67, pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child pornography and faces up to 10 years in federal prison; supervised release for a term of five years to life; and up to a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced on March 15, 2011, by Chief U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi.

Tousignant's guilty plea was announced by United States Attorney Peter F. Neronha, North Kingstown Police Chief Thomas J. Mulligan and Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell, Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police.

Leon Tousignant admitted to the court that more than 600 images of child pornography discovered on his laptop computer in June 2011 by a person sharing his North Kingstown residence belonged to him. Tousignant also admitted that several thousand images discovered on a thumb drive storage device located in his residence after he was arrested by North Kingstown Police and had moved from the residence belonged to him.

The images, which contained pre-pubescent minors below the age of twelve engaged in sexually explicit conduct, have been submitted to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to determine if any known and previously identified victims are included in the images.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John P. McAdams.

The matter was investigated by the North Kingstown Police Department with the assistance of The Rhode Island State Police Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

The ICAC is a Department of Justice grant-funded program administered by the Rhode Island State Police Computer Crimes Unit, comprised of five State Police detectives; detectives from the Providence, West Warwick and Coventry Police Departments; and an agent from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI-ICE). The objective of the RI ICAC Task Force is to form strong working relationships between local, state and federal law enforcement in order to effectively and efficiently prevent, detect, investigate, and prosecute online child exploitation and child pornography crimes.

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