



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

David Leyton, Prosecutor



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER YOUTH PASTOR PLEADS TO 48 COUNTS OF CHILD PORN

FLINT – Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said that today's plea by a self-described youth pastor to 48 counts of child porn sends a strong message to the community that the Prosecutor's Office will take a firm stance against those who perpetrate sex crimes against children.

Paul L. Gagnon, 51, of Flint, pleaded no contest to all felony charges filed against him including 36 counts which carry up to 20 years in prison; four 7-year felonies; seven counts of a 4-year felony; and one 2-year felony. Gagnon's plea in Circuit Court was the result of a 9-month investigation that uncovered an extensive amount of evidence showing Gagnon had manufactured, possessed, and distributed child pornography and used a computer to commit a crime.

The investigation began when a teenage boy who had been living with Gagnon discovered an elaborate spy camera system that Gagnon had set up in a bedroom and a bathroom at his home. Law enforcement seized not only thousands of images on Gagnon's computer and videotape of various sexual acts and nudity involving minors but also an extensive database and records system that Gagnon had kept to document his child porn activities.

Leyton said that, over many years, Gagnon took on the name of "Pastor Paul" while working with disadvantaged youth in the area. He would invite the children to his home and take them to local churches, trips to Cedar Point, and to a cabin up north. In addition to his youth pastor activities, Gagnon also operated a home repair business.

"Child pornography constitutes a grave and heinous crime against some of the most vulnerable citizens in our society," said Prosecutor Leyton after Gagnon's plea was entered. "The message today is that if you choose to prey on children, you will be held accountable for your actions. You will be prosecuted and you will be punished under the law."

"What Mr. Gagnon perpetrated on these children is deplorable. With his pleading today to all charges levied against him, justice has been done. I can only hope that this will be the first step that will allow our victims to have some sense of closure and that it will help them on their long road to healing," he said.

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