

PRESS RELEASE:

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Office of Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson

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Tonganoxie man sentenced to more than seven years in child pornography case

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — A 23-year-old Tonganoxie man was sentenced Wednesday to more than seven years in prison after pleading guilty to charges involving the possession of child pornography.

Ridge T. Vincent, 23, of Tonganoxie, on June 3, 2026, was sentenced by Judge Gerald Kuckelman to a total of 91 months in the Kansas Department of Corrections after pleading guilty April 1, 2026, to aggravated internet trading in child pornography and sexual exploitation of a child.

According to court documents, the case began Dec. 18, 2024, when Kik, a mobile instant messaging application, reported apparent child pornography to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The report was forwarded to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, which initiated an investigation that ultimately identified Vincent as a suspect.

Investigators obtained chat transcripts and conducted a forensic examination of Vincent's cellphone. The investigation revealed evidence that Vincent received and viewed child pornography through the internet.

On Feb. 17, 2025, Vincent was detained by officers with the Leavenworth Police Department after surveillance units observed him leave a residence in Leavenworth and enter a vehicle.

Prior to sentencing, the court heard testimony from defense experts who had evaluated Vincent. A forensic psychologist testified that Vincent presented a low risk of recidivism, was actively participating in treatment and could have his treatment needs met while on probation. A second doctor also testified that Vincent had a low probability of reoffending.

Defense attorneys requested a dispositional departure to probation based on those findings.

Prosecutors opposed the request, arguing the testimony did not constitute substantial and compelling reasons to depart from the presumptive prison sentence.

Judge Kuckelman acknowledged Vincent's efforts to seek counseling but denied the motion for departure.

The court noted that the criminal justice system serves purposes beyond rehabilitation, including punishment and protection of the public. The judge further stated that the crimes

involved the exploitation and abuse of children and that individuals who create demand for child sexual abuse material contribute to the victimization of children.

After considering the testimony and reviewing the evaluations presented by the defense, the court denied the motion and imposed a prison sentence.

For the charge of aggravated internet trading in child pornography, Vincent was sentenced to 59 months in prison. For the charge of sexual exploitation of a child, he was sentenced to 32 months. The sentences were ordered to run consecutively, resulting in a total prison term of 91 months.

“Every image and video of child sexual abuse represents a real child who was exploited and victimized,” Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said. “Those who view, possess, trade or distribute this material fuel the market that perpetuates that abuse. We appreciate the work of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Leavenworth Police Department in bringing this case to justice and protecting children from further harm.”