



Walter R. Wilson  
Sheriff

# *Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office*

2295 REISER AVE, S.E.  
NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO 44663  
PHONE (330) 339-2000

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## Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Date: 12/10/2012

Time:

Local basketball coach and referee facing child pornography charges.

Thomas E. Wright (32 yoa male) was arrested on a Secret Indictment on Friday 12-08-2012 at approximately 2:00 am by Deputy Travis Stocker at a residence in Gnadenuhthen, OH on a Grand Jury Indictment and remains in the custody of the Tuscarawas County Jail until his arraignment.

The investigation began in February of 2011 with Bethesda (Ohio) Police Department and the Sexual Predator Internet Initiative out of Belmont County. Investigator Jeremy Campbell initiated the investigation after observing a computer on a Peer-to- Peer program was actively downloading and sharing known child pornography images and videos.

In late June 2011, the IP address associated with the computer hosting and sharing the known child pornography images was identified to be located in Tuscarawas County. A Search Warrant for the address of 129 Bell Ave Dover, OH (Wright's residence at the time) was executed on July 15, 2011 by the Tusc. Co. Sheriff's Office with assistance from the Dover Police Dept. Wright's laptop was ultimately identified as the computer that was downloading and sharing child pornography images and videos in February, 2011. During an interview on July 15, 2011 Thomas Wright denied any knowledge or association with child pornography images and / or videos.

Thomas Wright had previously coached basketball for Riverview Schools, Indian Valley Schools, and AAU basketball teams and at times would referee games. Even after the execution of the search warrant and interview, Thomas Wright continued to put himself in the position of coaching and having close contact with juvenile males.

During the forensic exam of the laptop computer of Thomas Wright a home made video of a male who was 16 years old at the time (now an adult) was located. The parents of the local male confirmed the identity to be their son. It was learned the video was produced on the cell phone of Thomas Wright and then transferred to his laptop.

Special Agent Jacob Kunkle of the FBI also assisted in the investigative portion of this case. Thomas Wright ultimately confessed to being the person responsible for searching and downloading child pornography images located on the laptop computer as well and the home made video of the local

male.

Counts 1- 4 F2 2907.322(A)(2) - with knowledge of the character of the material or performance involved, did advertise for sale or disseminate, sell, distribute, transport, disseminate, exhibit, or display an material that shows a minor participating or engaging in sexual activity, masturbation, or bestiality.

Count 5 – F2 2907.321(A)(1) - with knowledge of the character of the material or performance involved, did create, reproduce, or publish any obscene material that has a minor as one of its participants or observers: to wit: video of known male child victim, age 16 at the time of the offense.

Count 6 – F4 2907.321(A)(5) - with knowledge of the character of the material or performance involved, did buy, procure, possess or control any obscene materials or performance that has a minor as one of its participants to wit: over 300 images or videos of child pornography.