

ANNUAL REPORT

CPCU OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF FLORIDA



To combat the growing threat of cybercrimes against children in our state, the Attorney General's Child Predator CyberCrime Unit was established in 2005. This unit works to advocate for children that are victims of cybercrimes and includes law enforcement investigators and prosecutors whose primary mission is to arrest and prosecute child predators, those that manufacture, possess or distribute child pornography, and Internet-based sexual exploitation of children.

The Unit has five offices statewide, which are located in Jacksonville, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, Orlando, and Milton. There are a total of fifteen Law Enforcement Investigators, eight Victim Advocates, four Prosecutors, and other staff, including digital forensic analysts and support staff.

A busy year for the Multi-Disciplinary Team of the CPCU

The Law Enforcement Officers of the Child Predator CyberCrime Unit have had a very busy year. In March 2010, CPCU investigators led a very successful law enforcement operation. This operation, dubbed "Operation Broken Heart," was a cooperative effort targeting the Tampa Bay area and resulted in 29 arrests, including one registered sex offender. The operation was initiated and led by the Attorney General's Tampa CyberCrime Task Force. During the operation, 45 search warrants were executed and 29 arrests were made; charges range from possession and distribution of child pornography to sexual battery. Some of the images collected from the defendants depicted children as young as infants. Two girls were also rescued during the operation after disclosing they were victims of sexual abuse.

During 2010, CPCU investigators have opened a total of 293 cases. Of those cases, CPCU investigators have made a total of 85 arrests and executed 147 search warrants across the state of Florida. CPCU Investigators, and forensic analysts, conducted a total of 276 digital forensic exams on items of digital media that were recovered during criminal investigations.

The Law Enforcement Investigators and supervisors also conduct Cyber-Safety presentations to various groups including school parent groups, Boy Scout troops, church groups, and other various civic and private groups. The presentation is designed to give parents, youth leaders, and educators valuable information on how to help protect children from the dangers of the Internet. In 2010, there were 70 groups that requested and received a special Cyber-Safety presentation tailored for an adult audience.

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One of the slides from the Student Cyber-Safety Program

ADVOCATING FOR VICTIMS OF CYBERCRIME

Using the case management model of victim advocacy, in 2010, the Cybercrime Victim Advocate Division has opened cases on 167 victims of cybercrime, providing each with information and referrals to community service providers for counseling, support, or therapy designed to address the specific type of victimization to which the child was exposed. 62 of the cases in 2010 were a result of cases worked by the Child Predator CyberCrime Unit's Law Enforcement Division, where a child was identified as a victim.

Along with 9950 documented units of service, all victims are informed of their statutory rights according to F.S. 960 to insure they understand that they have the right to be informed, present, and heard during all court proceedings in respect to their victimization. If necessary, the cybercrime victim advocate will stay on the case up to and through the final court proceeding.

PINELLAS COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR SOLICITING TEENS FOR SEX

April 1, 2010

Michael John Tyler, 27, was arrested in June 2009 by the Attorney Generals' CyberCrime Unit after receiving a cybertip from Pennsylvania authorities. Tyler was prosecuted by attorneys with the Attorney General's CyberCrime Unit.

The Pennsylvania tip was referred to authorities after a child called the National Suicide Hotline threatening to commit suicide. Acting on the cybertip, CyberCrime investigators executed a search warrant at Tyler's Oldsmar home and seized two computers and a laptop. Forensic evidence revealed Tyler had initiated contact with numerous young girls that were located all across the United States, including several in Florida, and sexually soliciting the vast majority of the victims.

Tyler was charged with two counts lewd and lascivious battery, a second-degree felony, and one count each of lewd and lascivious conduct and possession of child pornography, both third-degree felonies. After Tyler is released from prison, he must serve 10 years of sex offender probation and must register with the state as a sex offender.

EXPERIENCED ATTORNEYS FIGHT CHILD EXPLOITATION

In 2010, CPCU attorneys served the citizens of Florida in multiple ways. Their service included prosecuting criminal cases, drafting and reviewing all CPCU search warrants and arrest warrants, reviewing investigative reports, reviewing all prosecution "books" delivered to local SAO's for prosecution. CPCU attorneys routinely responded to requests from both State and Federal prosecutors for assistance ranging from legal research, assisting with legal motions and responses to defense motions, drafting direct and cross examination questions and witness preparation to assist State and Federal prosecutors in trial. CPCU attorneys initiated and provided the legal work resulting in the forfeiture of a vehicle seized from a "Traveler." Additionally, the CPCU legal team used their expertise to provide training to State prosecutors and State judges throughout Florida in the area of child exploitation.

"I believe it worth mentioning to you how impressed I am, consistently, with the work product, the efficiency and the all around general help my detectives and I get before, during and after our search warrants, arrests and case preparations...."

-Lt. Charles M. Thorpe, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office



Christopher Paul Bachman

OKALOOSA COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO 180 YEARS IN PRISON.

December 16, 2010

Christopher Paul Bachman was found guilty earlier this year on 34 counts of possession of child pornography and one count of promoting the sexual performance of a child, by a jury in Crestview.

Bachman was arrested in 2008 when law enforcement with the Attorney General's CyberCrime Unit located images of child pornography online and traced them back to Bachman's computer. A search warrant was executed by the CyberCrime Unit and the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office at Bachman's Crestview residence and numerous items, including a laptop computer and an external hard drive, were seized for forensic analysis. The CyberCrime Unit's forensic analyst examined those items and recovered numerous videos and pictures containing images of child pornography.

Bachman was prosecuted by attorneys with the State Attorney's Office and was sentenced by Judge William Stone in the First Judicial Circuit.



CPCU Mobile Forensic/Interview Vehicle

NEW WEAPONS FOR THE FIGHT!

In September 2009, the Attorney General's Office CPCU was awarded a federal grant from the United States Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to purchase much needed equipment to more effectively investigate and prosecute child sex offenders. The total grant award was \$390,000, which authorized the purchase of two specialized vehicles.

In 2010, utilizing COPS grant funding, the CPCU was able to purchase two large trucks that will serve multiple roles and greatly enhance the capabilities of the investigators of the Unit. During the execution of search warrants, the vehicles will be utilized as mobile forensic labs and will also provide a secure area to conduct interviews of suspects, witnesses, and potential victims.

Also in 2010, the CPCU added a 2009 Honda Fit that was seized from a suspect who travelled to Santa Rosa County from Maryland with the intention of having sex with children. This vehicle was awarded to the CPCU using the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act in a civil action brought by CPCU attorneys.

"We couldn't ask for a better presentation!! The Attorney General's Office has a great delivery that gets the message across without producing unwarranted fear. I talked with several students afterwards and they said they are definitely changing the way they enter web sites. It was a big success!!"

- Principal Don Lewis, Lincoln Middle School, Gainesville

Many thanks for the EXCELLENT presentation you made to the Anchor Academy students of Sarasota High School yesterday morning! We all learned something about how to navigate cyberspace more safely, myself included. Thank you for handling a difficult subject with poise and candor. I will certainly let other colleagues know what a quality program you are offering via the Attorney General's Office.

-Kay Zahn, Home School Liaison, Sarasota High School

CYBER-SAFETY MESSAGE

In 2010, through a partnership with the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, with representatives from the Office of the Attorney General and with School Resource Officers, the Child Predator CyberCrime Unit Victim Advocate Division continued to present the Attorney General's fifty minute Cyber-Safety program to students during the school day. In 2010 the Victim Advocate Division trained 232 School Resource Officers (SRO) to assist with presenting the program in schools throughout the State, bringing the total of trained SRO's to 1116.

During 2010, the victim advocates, along with trained SRO's, have facilitated 1752 presentation in various middle and high schools throughout the state; providing 177,135 students with the messages contained in the Attorney General's Cyber Safety presentation. This year, the C-VAD's (CyberCrime Victim Advocate Division) presence in the schools have resulted in 3779 reporting victimization, such as being solicited while online or receiving inappropriate images, thus allowing the presenters to give valuable information to those students. The Victim Advocate Division continues to train various members of the community statewide on other topics, such as "victims of cybercrime", how to present the "cyber safety presentation" to students to ensure that the students in the audience are made aware of the tactics often used by child predators, and finally, how to report victimization.

The CyberCrime Victim Advocate Division is seen by many of the personnel in middle and high schools throughout the state of Florida as a valuable contact when information is needed to help victimized students. Many students also see the victim advocate assigned to do the presentations at their school as the person to see, otherwise known as the "go to" person, when a cyber crime has been identified.



CPCU Victim Advocate giving CyberSafety Presentation in English and Spanish to students at Ronald Reagan High School in Doral.

2010 CPCU AWARD WINNERS

Investigator Donald Cannon was recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children with an Award of Achievement which is given to law enforcement professionals who have worked tirelessly to fight child exploitation.

Investigator Stephen Brenton received the Office of the Attorney General Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding efforts on a number of "Traveler" cases.

Lieutenant Michael Baute' was awarded the 2010 Special Tribute Award during Nation Crime Victims' Rights Week by Attorney General Bill McCullom for his unrelenting commitment and dedication in apprehending a predator who was committing hands-on offense as well as exploiting children on-line.

Victim Advocate Myhosi Ashton was recognized by the FBI and given the Exceptional Public Service Award for her work helping two young victims of sexual abuse. Ms. Ashton provided continuing support, encouragement, and victim services throughout the prosecution.

Since the creation of the Attorney General's Student Cyber-Safety Program, over 755,000 of Florida's children have seen the interactive and effective cyber-safety presentation, which have been conducted at middle and high schools throughout the State of Florida.