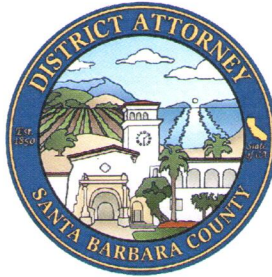


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 09-256

RELEASE NUMBER

September 4, 2014

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley
APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Anne Nudson, Deputy District Attorney.

CONTACT (805) 346-7522

* * * * * PRESS RELEASE * * * * *

September 4, 2014

Re: People v. Richard Dale Haenel

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that as a result of a plea relating to the possession of child pornography and distribution of child pornography over the internet, Richard Dale Haenel, age 70, of Solvang, was sentenced to 1 year in County jail, was placed on 5 years felony probation, and must register as a sex offender for life. Mr. Haenel will also pay restitution to one of the victims depicted in the child pornography videos that he downloaded from the internet.

On April 8, 2014, Santa Barbara District Attorney investigators and officers from the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force served a search warrant at Haenel's residence. Numerous videos of children being sexually assaulted were located on Haenel's computer and digital storage media. The evidence indicates that Haenel obtained the videos via the internet; it is not believed that he actually participated in the abuse.

Prosecuting Deputy District Attorney Anne Nudson stated, "Child pornography has serious and long lasting negative psychological and physiological effects on the children who were video recorded and photographed while being sexually exploited, sexually abused and molested. Collectors and distributors of child pornography re-victimize these children every time the videos and photos are viewed on the internet, downloaded or redistributed. The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office will continue to investigate and prosecute individuals who seek out, view and share child pornography online."

District Attorney Joyce Dudley stated that: "The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office investigated and prosecuted this case in cooperation with the affiliated agencies of the Los Angeles Area Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (LA-ICAC), a task force the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's office has been affiliated with for the past three years."

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