

Port St. Lucie man gets 20-year prison term after child...

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A former St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office deputy convicted on child pornography charges was sentenced Monday to 20 years in prison, the U. S. Attorney's Office said.

Cameron Dean Bates, 46, of Port St. Lucie is facing the 20-year term followed by 15 years of supervised release. U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore handed down his sentence.

According to St. Lucie County sheriff's records, Bates was a deputy from May 1998 to June 2006.

St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office deputies and members of the South Florida Internet Crimes against Children Task Force began investigating Bates in March 2011.

According to testimony at trial, between December 2010 and June 2012, Bates had several Internet protocol addresses in St. Lucie County and Palm Beach County that were used to download and share child pornography. Investigators obtained a search warrant for Bates' Port St. Lucie home and seized a Dell laptop computer from his car.

A full forensics analysis of the laptop showed numerous images and videos of child pornography, as well as adult pornography produced by Bates, prosecutors said.