

Ex-FBI agent pleads guilty to child porn charges; will pay \$20K to victim

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A former FBI agent facing federal charges involving child pornography will plead guilty and pay \$20,000 restitution to a victim, federal authorities said today.

Donald J. Sachtleben, 54, of Carmel, entered a plea agreement with prosecutors and “will pay restitution to an identified victim portrayed in the images and videos he allegedly possessed,” according to a news release from the U.S. attorney’s office. He will plead guilty to distribution of child pornography, for which he could be sentenced to up to 20 years in prison, and possession of child pornography, which carries a maximum 10-year sentence.

“Our Project Safe Childhood team is dedicated to investigating and prosecuting anyone who is found to have sexually exploited children – no matter who they are,” said U.S. Attorney Joe Hogsett in the news release. “Most importantly, we are similarly committed to identifying the silent victims of these crimes, and providing them the assistance and restitution they deserve.”

Sachtleben was charged in May 2012 after a child-pornography investigation in Illinois found that the suspect there had traded images with others, including Sachtleben.

“Based on that information, law enforcement were able to trace the alleged online activity to Sachtleben’s home in Carmel,” the news release said. Investigators said they found about 30 images on Sachtleben’s laptop.