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Boston

New Bedford Police Officer Paul Hodson arrested on federal child pornography charges

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A New Bedford police officer was arrested Wednesday and charged in federal court on child pornography charges after authorities said he had hundreds of child pornography files on his computer.

The officer, Paul E. Hodson II, 42, of Acushnet, was charged with one count of distribution of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography and was brought to federal court in Boston Wednesday.

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Federal investigators went to the officer's home Wednesday around 7:30 a.m. as they executed a search warrant. The officer was home along with his wife and 6-year-old child, according to an affidavit on file in court.

"When agents asked if Hodson knew why they were there, he indicated that he did, because he had reviewed the warrant," authorities said.

He allegedly followed up saying, "I'm f-----, right?"

Hodson told the investigators they would find child pornography on a laptop computer that was located in a basement, the affidavit said.

No one else used it, the officer told the investigators.

Hodson, according to federal records, gave investigators the password to the computer.

"Hodson admitted that he had been into child pornography since some time before his son was born, that he had used peer-to-peer file sharing software for a number of years (previously, to download music), and that eMule was the only program he used to trade child pornography," authorities said.

The officer's wife told agents that her husband said the laptop was broken. She never went into the basement, authorities said.

Investigators seized seven devices and reviewed the laptop. Authorities said they discovered 194 files that appeared to contain pictures and videos of underage girls involved in sex acts with other children and adults.

“In the course of a preliminary on-scene forensic preview of Hodson’s computer, hundreds of child pornography files were recovered, including at least one file that was distributed to undercover law enforcement in the course of the investigation that led to the search warrant,” the U.S. Attorney’s Office said.

Federal records show an investigation into a peer-to-peer file sharing network began in January. The investigation led authorities to Hodson, records show.

[SouthCoastToday](#) reports the officer was placed on paid administrative leave.



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