



Department of Justice

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DOCTOR SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS IN PRISON FOR PRODUCING, RECEIVING, AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Atlanta, GA-- GREGORY C. KAPORDELIS, 46, of Gainesville, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Charles A. Pannell, Jr., on charges of production, receipt, and possession of sexually explicit images of children. KAPORDELIS was convicted of the charges by a federal jury on May 24, 2007, after a three week trial.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "Gregory Kapordelis is a Jekyll and Hyde character. In public, he seemed to be a respected doctor, but in private, he was a monster who preyed on young boys. He drugged, molested, and photographed his victims in addition to maintaining a collection of thousands of graphic pictures and movies of child pornography, including videos of boys being raped. It is difficult to overstate the magnitude of his horrific crimes, and we are heartened that the Court imposed a sentence that should keep him from harming young boys again."

"This case is an example of a child predator who abused his role as a trusted member of the community to exploit children," said Kenneth Smith, special agent in charge for ICE's Office of Investigations for Atlanta. "ICE is dedicated to protecting children here and around the world from these insidious crimes."

KAPORDELIS was sentenced to 35 years in federal prison. There is no parole in the federal system. He was also ordered to serve 6 years of supervised release.

According to Nahmias, and the evidence presented at trial and sentencing: KAPORDELIS, an anesthesiologist who practices in Gainesville, was arrested on April 12, 2004, at JFK Airport in New York on his way back from a trip to Russia. He was charged with child pornography offenses after an examination of his computer revealed over 10,000 images and videos of child pornography depicting young boys engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Among the images found on KAPORDELIS' computer were photos he had taken of boys in his care. Relating to three of the counts, he was convicted of pulling down the victims' underwear while they slept and photographing them in the nude. One of the victims testified at trial and indicated he was 14 years old at the time the images were taken. According to his testimony, on one of the occasions KAPORDELIS prepared alcoholic drinks which caused the youth to pass out. Until the investigation of the KAPORDELIS began, that victim was unaware that the illegal photos had been taken. The father of a second victim, a relative of KAPORDELIS, testified that his son was 11 when the images were taken. The images were taken in Greece when the victim traveled there with KAPORDELIS and a large group of friends. Like the first victim, the second victim and his father were unaware of the illegal activity until law enforcement found the images on KAPORDELIS' computer.

In the middle of jury selection, KAPORDELIS indicated that he wished to represent himself at trial. Judge Pannell permitted him to proceed *pro se* after insuring that his decision to waive his right to an attorney was knowing and voluntary. Judge Pannell ordered Donald F. Samuel, the defendant's attorney up to that point, to remain in the court room as "standby counsel." Approximately halfway through the United States' presentation of its case, KAPORDELIS claimed to the court that he was too exhausted to continue, and his attorney was allowed to take over as counsel for the remainder of the trial.

A computer forensic specialist with the High Tech Investigative Unit in the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice testified at trial that he found thousands of images and over 300 videos of boys engaged in sexually explicit conduct on three of four computers seized from KAPORDELIS or from his home. According to testimony presented at trial, the child pornography was downloaded over a two-year period from various newsgroup programs such as "PixNewsPro," "NewsRover," and "Outlook Express." KAPORDELIS admitted at trial that the images depicted real children.

Additional evidence was presented at trial and sentencing that KAPORDELIS engaged in the molestation of young boys for many years, including the drugging, repeated molestation, and videotaping of a young relative. KAPORDELIS also traveled overseas to meet and molest young boys. In addition to the three computers containing child pornography that were presented as evidence at trial, during the sentencing hearing, evidence was presented that KAPORDELIS had child pornography on at least three other computers dating back to the late 1990s.

After the three-week-trial and only about four hours of deliberation, the federal jury found KAPORDELIS guilty of three counts of using a minor to produce a sexually explicit image, two counts of receipt of child pornography, and one count of possession of child pornography.

The jury found KAPORDELIS not guilty on a fourth production count, relating to a 17-minute video made in Prague.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Aaron M. Danzig and Robert C.I. McBurney and Trial Attorney Alexandra Gelber of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Justice Department's Criminal Division.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.