

**ACTUAL EXPENDITURES AND PERFORMANCE RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE
SOUTHERN VIRGINIA INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE**

REPORT TO THE

**Governor
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
Senate Finance Committee
House Appropriations Committee
Director of Department of Planning and Budget**



September 18, 2022

Sheriff Michael W. Miller
Bedford County Sheriff's Office

Captain Stephen Anders
SOVA-ICAC Commander



SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE



September 18, 2022

TO: The Honorable Glenn A. Youngkin
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Terrance C. Cole
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

The Honorable Janet D. Howell and the Honorable George L. Barker
Co-Chairs of the Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Barry D. Knight
Chair of the House Appropriations Committee

Mr. Michael Maul
Director of the Department of Planning and Budget

Pursuant to Appropriation Act – Item 408 H.2. (*Special Session 1, 2022*), I am respectfully submitting herewith a report on the *Actual Expenditures and Performance Results Achieved by the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force* for the Report period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Maul".

Sheriff
Bedford County, Virginia

MWM/RH

Enclosure

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**REPORT ON THE ACTUAL EXPENDITURES AND PERFORMANCE
RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE SOUTHERN VIRGINIA INTERNET
CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE DURING THE
2022-2023 YEAR**

OVERVIEW OF THE TASK FORCE

The Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, otherwise known as SOVA-ICAC, was founded in 1998 with funding from Department of Justice through the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention. Originally the task force name was Operation Blue Ridge Thunder. The task force designation is through the Bedford County Sheriff’s Office. Initial investigative responsibilities were investigating child sexual exploitation crimes perpetrated against children using the Internet but was later changed to include most all child sexual exploitation crimes perpetrated against children to include, but not limited to, child trafficking and child prostitution.

The SOVA-ICAC is comprised of 172 affiliate agencies from all areas of Law Enforcement, the private sector, and Non-Government Organizations. Law Enforcement support comes from Federal, State, County City/Local, Tribal and Military agencies. An (*) denotes an agency that joined the Task Force this past year.

Affiliate Agency Name	Agency Type
Accomack County Sheriff’s Office	County
Albemarle County Police Department	County
Albemarle County Sheriff’s Office	County
Alleghany County Sheriff’s Office	County
Amelia County Sheriff’s Office	County
Amherst County Sheriff’s Office	County
Amherst Police Department	City/Local
Appalachia Police Department	City/Local
Appomattox County Sheriff’s Office	County
Augusta County Sheriff’s Office	County
Bedford County Sheriff’s Office	County
Bedford County Department of Social Services	County
Bedford Police Department	County
Big Stone Gap Police Department	City/Local
Blacksburg Police Department	City/Local
Bluefield Police Department	City/Local
Botetourt County Sheriff’s Office	County
Bristol Police Department	City/Local

Brunswick County Sheriff's Office	City/Local
Buchanan County Sheriff's Office	County
Buckingham County Sheriff's Office	County
Buena Vista Police Department	City/Local
Campbell County Sheriff's Office	County
Caroline County Sheriff's Office	County
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	County
Centra Health (Forensic Nurses for Child Sex Abuse Exams)	NGO
Central Virginia Community College Police Department	State
Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy	State
Charles City County Sheriff's Office	County
Charlottesville Police Department	City/Local
Chesapeake Police Department	City/Local
Chesterfield County Police Department	County
Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol/Washington County	NGO
Children's Trust – Child Advocacy Center	NGO
Christiansburg Police Department	City/Local
CID (ARMY): Criminal Investigative Command, HQ VA	Federal
Clifton Forge Police Department	City/Local
Coeburn Police Department	City/Local
Colonial Beach Police Department *	City/Local
Colonial Heights Police Department	City/Local
Covington Police Department	City/Local
Craig County Sheriff's Office	County
Crewe Police Department	City/Local
Cumberland County Sheriff's Office	County
Danville Police Department	City/Local
Dickenson County Sheriff's Office	County
Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office	County
Emporia Police Department	City/Local
Farmville Police Department	City/Local
Floyd County Sheriff's Office	County
Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office	County
Franklin City Police Department*	City/Local
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	County
Giles County Sheriff's Office	County
Gloucester County Sheriff's Office	County
Goochland County Sheriff's Office	County

Grayson County Sheriff's Office	County
Greater Richmond SCAN	NGO
Greene County Sheriff's Office	County
Greensville County Sheriff's Office	County
Halifax County Sheriff's Office	County
Hampton Police Department	City/Local
Hanover County Sheriff's Office	County
Henrico County Police Division	County
Henry County Sheriff's Office	County
Hillsville Police Department	City/Local
Hopewell Police Department	City/Local
Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Office	County
James City County Police Department	County
King and Queen County Sheriff's Office	County
King George County Sheriff's Office	County
Lancaster County Sheriff's Office	County
Lebanon Police Department	City/Local
Liberty University Police Department	Private
Louisa County Sheriff's Office	County
Lynchburg City Sheriff's Office	City/Local
Lynchburg Police Department	City/Local
Martinsville Police Department	City/Local
Mathews County Sheriff's Office	County
Middlesex County Sheriff's Office	County
Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office*	County
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	County
NCIS: US Naval Criminal Investigative Service - Norfolk	Federal
Nelson County Sheriff's Office	County
New Kent Sheriff's Office	County
Newport News Police Department*	City/Local
Norfolk Police Department	City/Local
Northampton County Sheriff's Office	County
Northumberland County Sheriff's Offices Office	County
Norton Police Department	City/Local
Patrick County Sheriff's Office	County
Petersburg Police Department	City/Local
Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy*	County
Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office	County

Poquoson Police Department	City/Local
Pound Police Department	City/Local
Powhatan Sheriff's Office	City/Local
Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office	County
Prince George County Police Department	County
Pulaski County Sheriff's Office	County
Pulaski Police Department	City/Local
Radford Police Department	City/Local
Radford University Police Department	Private
Rich Creek Police Department	City/Local
Richmond City Police Department	City/Local
Richmond County Sheriff's Office	County
Roanoke City Police Department	City/Local
Roanoke County Police Department	County
Rockbridge County Sheriff's Office	County
Rocky Mount Police Department	City/Local
Russell County Sheriff's Office	County
Salem Police Department*	City/Local
Saltville Police Department	City/Local
Scott County Sheriff's Office	County
Smyth County Sheriff's Office	County
Southampton County Sheriff's Office	County
South Hill Police Department	City/Local
Southern Virginia Child Advocacy Center	NGO
St. Paul Police Department	City/Local
Staunton Police Department*	City/Local
Suffolk Police Department	City/Local
Tazewell County Sheriff's Office	County
Tazewell Police Department	City/Local
U.S. Department of the Air Force (USAF OSI)	Federal
U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement	Federal
United States Attorney's Office - Eastern District	Federal
University of Virginia Police Department	State/Private
Vinton Police Department	City/Local
Virginia Attorney General	State
Virginia Beach Police Department	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Albemarle County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Amelia County	County

VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Augusta County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Bedford County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Botetourt County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Campbell County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Chesapeake City	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Danville City	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Dinwiddie County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Franklin County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Giles County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Gloucester County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Goochland County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Grayson County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Halifax County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Hanover County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Henry County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Louisa County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Lynchburg City	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Middlesex County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Montgomery County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Norfolk City	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Northumberland County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Nottoway County*	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Tazewell County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Virginia Beach	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Waynesboro City	City/Local
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Westmoreland County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Williamsburg-James City County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Wise County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: Wythe County	County
VA Commonwealth's Attorney: York-Poquoson	County
VA Department of Probation and Parole: District 20 Bedford	State
VA Department of Probation and Parole: District 23 Virginia Beach	State
Washington County Sheriff's Office	County
Waynesboro Police Department	City/Local
Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office*	County
Williamsburg Police Department	City/Local
Wise County Sheriff's Office	County
Wise Police Department	City/Local

Wythe County Police Department	County
York County Police Department	County

BUDGETARY SOVA-ICAC

CATEGORY	PROJECTED FEES	ACTUAL COLLECTED (w/GAP Funding)	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE (Collected-Expenditures)
Personnel	\$1,297,862.00	\$850,000.00	\$835,719.72	\$14,280.28
Equipment	\$117,138.00	\$47,997.00	\$171,525.75	-\$123,528.75
Supplies	\$15,000.00	-	\$6,224.68	-\$6,224.68
Training	\$20,000.00	-	\$9,508.16	-\$9,508.16
Gap Funding	-	\$446,547.00	-	\$446,547.00
Total	\$1,450,000.00	\$1,344,544.00	\$1,022,978.31	\$321,565.69

The *Projected Fees* column shows the breakdown of costs based on what the Task Force operated with in years past, when the budget was based on the “up to \$1,450,000” language as provided for in the state budget. This was when shortfalls were covered by excess funds from previous years. Due to various factors (including the pandemic) that caused a reduction in collected fees, the Task Force froze hiring, and focused on preserving staffing levels as they were.

The *Actual Collected* column details what was needed to budget to keep current staff without layoffs, and what the total available funding ended up being once the Task Force knew the total collected amount (after June 2023), along with the provided gap funding. With the reduction in fees being collected under *Alicia’s Law*, the General Assembly provided gap funding of \$446,547. Coupled with the actual fees collected of \$897,997, our total available funding for this reporting period was \$1,344,544.

The Task Force took a conservative approach this period, due to uncertainty with the monthly amounts collected under *Alicia’s Law*. Generally, we know *after* each quarter, what funds were collected. The Task Force must try to balance daily and monthly operating expenses, while not knowing what funds would be collected to cover those expenses, until 1-3 months after the expenses were incurred. For example, in September, the Task Force would know how much funding was being provided for June, July and August. It is extremely challenging to try to budget and operate, not knowing how much funding would be there, and not overspending or

overcommitting. Without the gap funding, even at reduced staffing, Task Force salary needs would have used approximately 93% of the funding collected through fees. The gap funding was instrumental in providing coverage for the collected fee shortfalls, as well as providing some breathing room. Savings in this area were realized by not filling previously vacant positions, due to salary costs, and having two investigators resign/retire. These two positions were eventually filled but were at reduced salary costs due to being less experienced than those they replaced. There is also one forensic position currently being paid for out of federal grant funding, but due to the pandemic, that award had been delayed. The Task Force reserved spending on some projects, to be able to absorb those salary costs if the federal award had not been granted a no-cost extension.

The *Expenditures* column details actual expenditures using this funding for this reporting period.

The remaining *Balances* will now be used to cover projects that were put on hold due to funding uncertainty, as well as to upgrade and replace some equipment and materials that were damaged from flooding from a frozen pipe bursting, and which were not covered to replacement value by the insurance company. Moving forward, the Task Force will also be looking to fill multiple vacant positions.

PERSONNEL

Funding in the Personnel category was allocated to pay salaries and benefits of core SOVA-ICAC personnel. Core SOVA-ICAC personnel operate out of the SOVA-ICAC office in Forest, Virginia, located within the confines of Bedford County, Virginia. ICAC personnel are employed by the Bedford County Sheriff's Office, or affiliates who have assigned investigators to work full-time out of the SOVA-ICAC main office. The staff is comprised of a Task Force Commander, a Lieutenant, three Sergeants, an accounting specialist, a Cyber Tip Manager and a Cybertip Analyst, Investigators, and a LAN Manager. The investigative team is composed of two units, criminal investigations, and forensic examiners. In the investigations unit, there is currently one sergeant, and four investigators. One of those investigators also was the handler for the ESD K9 assigned to the Task Force. Currently, one investigator position is reserved for affiliate agencies to assign an investigator to the main SOVA ICAC HQ office (with funding for this position allocated out of affiliate funding). This position is currently being filled by an investigator from Campbell County Sheriff's Office. In the forensic examiner unit, there is currently one sergeant, and four forensic investigators. To date, vacant positions that are not actively being sought to be filled include a Lieutenant, an Administrative Sergeant, two Criminal Investigators, a Cybertip Manager, a Cybertip Analyst, and a LAN Manager. These positions were not filled due to uncertainty on funding.

EQUIPMENT

Funding in the equipment category is used to purchase equipment used solely by ICAC personnel to investigate child sexual exploitation cases and prevent and or educate on child sexual exploitation to include the following:

- Charging port docks (for forensic unit)
- Replacement Monitors
- Miscellaneous cables, extension cords, etc.
- Computer Hardware for Forensics Lab
- Computer Software for Forensics Lab
- SMS renewal
- Hardware upgrades and updates for server equipment and management
- Upgrades and installation of equipment for faster fiber internet connections
- External portable SSD drives and cases
- Barrier for evidence receiving area
- Shelves for storage
- Network Migration Equipment and Services
- Azure licensing (for Cloud Project)

SUPPLIES, TRAINING and OTHER EXPENSES

Many of our monthly recurring costs such as electric service, gas service, cellular phone contracts, copier and postage costs, alarm and building services and Internet communications services were moved to federal funding due to uncertainty of state funding levels. Supply expenses include the following:

- ESD K9 support (veterinarian costs, medicine, food, etc.)
- Task Force Uniform replacement
- Filters
- Videos for public education
- Office supplies (calendars, white board markers, staples, labels, tape, etc.)
- Prime membership (savings for free shipping on items/supplies)
- Expenses related to ESD K9 recertifications.
- Training books/manuals
- Online training/development course access

BUDGETARY SOVA-ICAC AFFILIATES

	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE
Total	\$604,210.00	\$603,464.86	\$745.14

Funding for affiliates was used for the purpose of Personnel (\$241,165.32), Travel/Training (\$105,083.35) and Equipment (\$257,216.19) expenditures.

PERSONNEL

Funds were allocated to reimburse for time worked by SOVA-ICAC affiliates. The 172 affiliated agencies with SOVA-ICAC employ these staff members, and funds are used to reimburse them for overtime work performed for ICAC investigations. Funding for one affiliate position for full-time assignment to the SOVA-ICAC main task force office comes out of this funding as well. This position is currently filled by an investigator from the Campbell County Sheriff's Office. In addition, funding for the salary of financial analyst who supports and manages all funding for the entire task force is also supported with affiliate funding.

TRAVEL/TRAINING

Funding in the travel category is used to train and educate the members of our 172 affiliates and equip them to continue their investigations to locate those individuals who prey upon and exploit our children and secure the evidence needed to bring them to trial. Availability of "in-person" trainings continued to increase, so we were able to send more affiliates to in-person training. Training examples included:

- ICAC Conferences (Atlanta and Florida)
- Dallas Crimes Against Children Conference
- Techno Forensic Conference
- Magnet Forensic Conference
- Cellebrite Training

Axiom/GrayKey Training
Magnet Summit
Internet of Things (IOT) Conference
Instructing on *Social Media Threats to Children*, for VA State SRO Basic Courses
Internet Investigations and Intelligence Training
Magnet Forensic Training Pass
Intro to ICAC training
OpenText EnCase Certification Renewal
ICAC Investigative Techniques
SANS Forensic Training

EQUIPMENT

Funding in the equipment category is used to purchase equipment used by the SOVA-ICAC affiliates to investigate child sexual exploitation cases, and to prevent and/or educate on child sexual exploitation. Funds were expended to purchase needed investigative equipment and to acquire or renew software licensing for affiliate investigators, and included items such as:

Hard drives/digital storage devices
UFED Software Renewals
Griffeye Pro license renewals
Sumuri Recon and CARBON license renewal
Magnet Forensic Training Pass
Forensic Imager
Synology 4 Bay NAS Diskless & 4TB Hard Drives
XRY Logical & Physical License Renewal
Computers & Accessories (laptops, forensic workstations, etc.)
Elevator phone service/alerts and maintenance (for access to training lab)
Atola forensic disk imager hardware
Graykey licensing
Monitors
Docking stations
Mobile devices (phones/tablets for UC work – equipment only no service)
Camtasia software renewal

**Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force SOVA ICAC
Enforcement Activities**

July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

Documented Complaints

Traveler	Proactive	124
	Reactive	12
Enticement	Proactive	80
	Reactive	182
Obscenity Directed to Minors	Proactive	39
	Reactive	209
Child Sex Trafficking (changed from “Child Prostitution”)	Proactive	3
	Reactive	10
Child Pornography Manufacture	Proactive	19
	Reactive	133
Distribution	Proactive	81
	Reactive	461
Possession	Proactive	90
	Reactive	1,413

Case Information

Case Dispositions

Unfounded	875
Suspended	255
Plea	111
Trial	31

Submitted Federal Prosecution

40

Accepted Federal Prosecution

23

Number of Investigations

2,806

Arrests

220

Goals

Cyber Tips Received

8,377

CVIP Submissions

38

Affiliated Agencies Added

9

Child Victims Identified

115

Court Actions

Subpoenas or Court Orders

Federal	511
State/Local	1,760

Technical Assists

Technical Support

1,231

Forensics Exams

4,639

Total Digital Medial (TB)

465.8TB

Training

Training Sessions Provided

74

Law Enforcement Trained	723
Prosecutors Trained	10
Other Professions Trained	33
Number Sent to ICAC Training	62
Number Sent to Other Training	224

Community Outreach

Presentations	99
Number of Attendees	2,950
Public Events	51
Number of Attendees	17,411
Public Awareness	18

A few cases of interest during this reporting period include the following:

Henrico, VA:

In May 2023, the Henrico Police Department ran an online trafficking/solicitation operation. This operation resulted in the arrest of 11 individuals, 7 of whom traveled to meet what they thought was a minor for sex. Arrested were Eric Allen, 51, Henrico; Joshua Diesen, 27, Ashland; Joshua Iloff, 32, Louisa; Rahal Jayasinghe, 26, Prince William; William Jenkins, 54, Waverly; Venkata Manikanta Nimmalapudi Sr., 32, Henrico; Robert Preston, 46, Chesterfield; Giovanni Rivera, 42, Williamsburg; Peter Sczuroski Jr., 33, New Kent; and Toby Wright, 46, Henrico.

Powhatan, VA

In February 2023, Stephen Shaw was indicted on 18 new charges involving production and possession of child pornography, and unlawful filming of a minor. Shaw was already on bond and in Georgia for prior charges involving possession and distribution of child pornography from 2022. At the time of his arrest on the 2022 charges, he was an employee of Powhatan County in the Building and Inspections Department.

Bedford, VA:

In June 2023, The Bedford County Sheriff's Office responded to a call of a missing 11-year-old girl. Based on a vehicle description provided by an alert neighbor, and a cell phone ping placing the victim's phone at a local gas station, investigators were able to locate security camera footage of the vehicle and obtain a license plate. Once suspects were identified, a cell phone number for them was identified, and investigators were able to begin live tracking the suspect vehicle as it returned to Florida. Florida authorities were able to intercept the vehicle, where they safely recovered the victim, and took the two suspects into custody. The suspects were extradited back to Virginia on abduction charges, with potential additional charges coming. The 19-year-old male suspect, Alexander Baab, and his mother, 43-year-old Conceta Karen Chavis, had traveled from Tampa to Goode to pick up the victim, after Baab and the victim had met on Roblox. Assistance was provided by the FBI, Tampa Police Department, Escambia County Sheriff's Office, Duval County Sheriff's Office, and the Florida Highway Patrol.

Alleghany, VA:

In April 2023, David Persinger of Covington, VA, was arrested by the Alleghany Sheriff's Office, after he traveled to meet what he thought was a minor for sexual activities. In May 2023, the Alleghany Sheriff's Office also arrested Thomas Lehrmann, who traveled from Lynchburg, to have sex with what he thought was a minor.

Portsmouth, VA:

In April 2023, Pierre De Romeo Smith, 40, of Portsmouth, was convicted by federal jury on seven counts of sex trafficking, production of child pornography, possession with intent to distribute controlled substances and unlawful possession of a firearm. Smith had produced child pornography of a 16-year-old female victim and made her available for commercial sex. He would collect the money from the buyers and gave the victim amphetamines to keep her awake. Task Force Officers from Virginia Beach Police Department, and the Dept. of Homeland Security-Norfolk located Smith and the victim at a hotel, while conducting a proactive undercover commercial sex operation at a hotel. In Smith's vehicle, they also found fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, and a handgun. Smith is a previously convicted felon.

Virginia Beach, VA:

In June 2023, Phillip Bay was arrested on 20 counts of possession of child pornography. This case was the result of multiple Cybertips received from NCMEC. Bay was convicted in 2011, and was sentenced to 12 years in prison, for plotting an attack on fellow students at Landstown High School. In that incident, he had created a stockpile of Molotov cocktails and pipe bombs. His video and journal entries showed he planned to kill at least 30 students before killing himself.

Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA:

In March 2023, Elliott Velez, 38, received 30 years in federal prison for producing child pornography. Velez was a Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force, with 20 years of service. Velez used 28 fake social media profiles and would communicate with minor females. He also instructed them to undress and perform sexual activities, and in some instances, abuse other children. This case resulted from multiple Cybertips and was worked jointly by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and the FBI.

Chesapeake, VA:

In December 2022, Jonathan Wilson pled guilty in federal court to two counts of producing child pornography. Chesapeake Police began investigating Wilson as the result of multiple Cybertips from NCMEC. Wilson had been communicating with a sex worker overseas, who was so disturbed by what he sent her, that she contacted local authorities, who subsequently identified Wilson and a tip was made to NCMEC. Wilson was originally charged on state violations, but over 1,500 images that he produced of a four-year-old victim that he abused were discovered, and he was subsequently indicted on federal charges. He will be sentenced in May 2023, and has a recommended sentence of 36 years.

Virginia Beach, VA

In October 2022, detectives with the VA Beach Police Department arrested Douglas France on possession and distribution of child pornography charges. France was identified as the result of multiple Cybertips submitted to NCMEC by Kik. Legal process identified multiple IP addresses to France's residence, as well as a VA Beach Fire Station. It was then determined that France was an employee of the fire department. France pled not guilty in November, and his trial is pending. Virginia Beach PD was assisted by the Dept. of Homeland Security Investigations.

Virginia Beach, VA:

In December 2022, David Crouse, Jr., was arrested on 5 counts of possession and 5 counts of distribution of child pornography. As the result of a forensic examination of seized digital devices, he was found to be in possession of over 10,000 images of child pornography. At the time of his arrest, Crouse was an employee of a local elementary school.

Bedford, VA:

In December 2022, Steven Byerly, of Goode, VA, was arrested on numerous indictments related to child pornography. At the time of his arrest, he was employed in the nuclear power industry, with various security clearances.

Pulaski, VA:

In November 2022, Richard Simpson was sentenced to 15 years on 15 counts of possessing child pornography. He initially had claimed his phone was hacked, but then admitted he knew the files were on his phone and he did not delete them. It was also claimed he found the child porn while researching links between public figures and child sex offenses, fueled by his interest in “QAnon”.

Powhatan, VA:

In October 2022, Stephen Shaw was arrested on one count of distribution of child pornography. Shaw was a Powhatan County employee in the Building and Inspections Department, served as a member of a volunteer fire department, and was a member of the Central Virginia Wrestling Officials Association, which provided officials for middle and high school wrestling events.