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In a "Manipulative Chokehold"

How a Molester Became a Trafficker

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Separate or Intersecting?



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The Molester

Convicted child molester sentenced to 190 years for attacks on 2 girls

Russell A. Bowles Jr. had threatened to kill the young victims before I came forward for help.

By Susan Schramm
staff writer

A two-time convicted child molester was sentenced Friday to 190 years in prison by a Marion County judge who said the community is best served with the man behind bars.

Russell A. Bowles Jr., 42, had threatened to kill the two girls he molested in 1995 and 1996 in an Indianapolis "home" neighborhood.

The threats, along with the molestation incidents and Bowles' criminal history, swayed the

forward and testify.

Although Bowles was clever enough to know how to manipulate the girls, he underestimated their strength, the judge said.

The case began after a "good touch bad touch" seminar was presented at one of the girls' schools. After the seminar, the girl told the presenter about Bowles. The presenter notified authorities.

Indianapolis Police Department Detective Charles Gold conducted an investigation, and criminal charges were filed in 1997.

During his trial, the two girls testified about the times Bowles sexually assaulted them.

Bowles said he would appeal. His attorney, Edward Malenka, said Bowles did not want to prevent any evidence or argument.

Deputy Prosecutor Kristina Korobov argued that Bowles should

Russell A. Bowles Jr., who plans to appeal, has an extensive criminal history involving a variety of convictions.



I think he's a control freak. Everything is about Russell's will," Korobov said. "He's a whatever necessary to control the girls. They would do whatever I wanted because they were terrified."

The judge agreed, telling Bowles he has blamed everyone but his self. It's almost a certainty, all said, that he would commit another

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Internet Offenders: The Serial Child Exploiter

Georgia Man Sentenced to 30 Years in Federal Prison for Sexually Exploiting Five Children in Indiana and South Carolina

Thursday, March 17, 2022

News 1

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS – Matthew D. Walker, 26, of Augusta, Georgia, was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to the sexual exploitation of a child.

According to court documents, Walker sexually exploited 3 Indiana children and 2 children from South Carolina. Walker first came to the attention of federal authorities in the fall of 2019, when Walker had engaged in sexually explicit Snapchat communications with two minor boys in the Southern District of Indiana. Walker misrepresented himself on Snapchat as a teenage girl, persuading minors to create and send him images and videos of themselves engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Walker threatened the minors that he would distribute these images and videos of these minors to their respective families if they did not do as he instructed.



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The Intersections?



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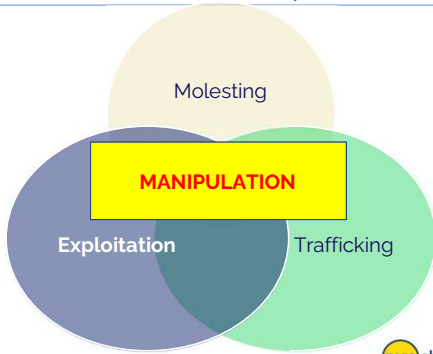
But what about this?

- Child Molester: 2018 and 2020
 - But perp is 16 & 17 at time of offenses
- Online Exploitation: January 2021
 - Meets V through online chat
- Sexual Exploitation / Attempted Sex Trafficking: 2022
 - All done while perp in jail



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What's The Commonality?



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Agenda

- Case Study
- What we learned
- Takeaways



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Case Study

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Let's begin at the beginning

- Who is Austin?
 - In 2018: 16 years old
 - Dropped out of HS in sophomore year (self-report)
 - Limited criminal history:
 - Juvenile: burglary
 - Guns?



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Let's begin at the beginning

- Who is Austin?
 - Family: scattered
 - Both dad and mom have multiple children
 - Maternal grandmother in the picture (14 years older than mom)
 - Ward of state by early 2020
 - Socio-economic
 - Impoverished
 - Mental health?



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First Set of Sex Offenses



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First Set of Sex Offenses

- Sexual violations of Austin's sister
 - First Allegations: Molested her in 2016 – 2018
 - Victim was between 10 and 12
 - Vaginal penetration
 - Victim disclosed to mentor at school
 - Investigation?
 - Intervention?
 - DCS



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Second Offense

- Second Offense: January 2020
 - Mom starts allowing visits at her home
 - Austin molests victim in bedroom
 - Victim runs from house
 - Immediate disclosure
 - Digital penetration by Austin
 - Case filed March 24, 2020
 - Charges filed in adult court



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Rape Charges

- Why rape?
 - Rape is a "direct file" charge in adult court
 - Defendant had just turned 18 (Feb. 2021)
 - Conduct occurred when 17 and 16

[illegible]

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Plea Agreement

- 11/25/2020: Plea Agreement accepted
 - Judgment of conviction entered
 - **Defendant ordered released**
 - Pre-trial incarceration: About 8 months
- Pleads guilty to amended counts: Criminal Confinement and Sexual Battery
- Sentence: 5 years suspended



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Sentencing

- Sex Offender Probation: 5 years

21. You shall not possess or view obscene matter as defined by IC 35-49-2-1 or child pornography as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8), including but not limited to: videos, magazines, books, DVD's, and material downloaded from the Internet. You shall not visit strip clubs, adult bookstores, motels specifically operated for sexual encounters, peep shows, bars where partially nude or exotic dancers perform, or businesses that sell sexual devices or aids.

22. You shall not travel alone after 10 p.m. (including but not limited to: driving, walking, bicycling, etc.) unless given permission by your probation officer. You shall be under intensive supervision and complete a travel log and/or journal of daily activities as directed by your probation officer.

(**Conditions 23-28 apply, but are subject to an assessment completed by the probation department within forty-five (45) days of the supervision start date)

23. You are prohibited from accessing or using certain web sites, chat rooms, or instant messaging programs frequented by children. You are prohibited from deleting, erasing, or tampering with information on your personal computer with intent to conceal an activity prohibited by this condition. ****Required as a condition of probation by IC 35-38-2-2.2(4).**

24. You shall not use a social networking web site or an instant messaging or chat room program to communicate, directly or through an intermediary, with a child less than sixteen (16) years of age. This includes your own child, stepchild, sibling or another relative. If you want to communicate with your own child, stepchild, sibling or another relative by using a social networking web site or an instant messaging or chat room program, you may only do so with a written order of this court that specifically names the relative(s) with whom you can communicate. ****Required as a condition of probation by IC 35-38-2-2.7.**

25. You shall have no contact with any person under the age of 16 unless you receive Court approval or successfully complete a court-approved sex offender treatment program, pursuant to IC 35-38-2-2.4. Contact includes face-to-face, telephonic, written, electronic, or any indirect contact via third parties.



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Supervision

- Defendant living with grandmother



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Supervision

- Non-compliance begins
 - First Violation: 1/29/2021
 - No HIV testing or drug screen, No job / fired, Won't attend treatment intake
 - Home Visit: 2/2/2021
 - Austin answers door: smartphone in hand



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Feb. 2021 Home Visit

- Phone Viewed in Home:
 - Phone contains
 - social media accounts,
 - evidence of drug use and commercial sex activity
 - photos of Austin with guns
- Preliminary Phone Forensics:
 - Austin chatting with minors as young as 12 years of age.
- **Warrant issued: 2/4/2021**

Criminal Complaint, 122-cr-98-JMS



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Fugitive Status

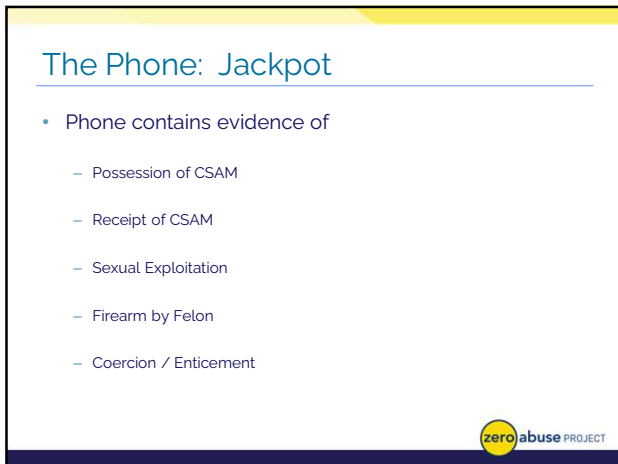
- Fugitive from February 2021 to December 2021
 - Near-arrest in November 2021
 - Firearm call
 - Defendant flees
 - Gun found
 - Arrest in December 2021
 - Call by pregnant girlfriend's friend



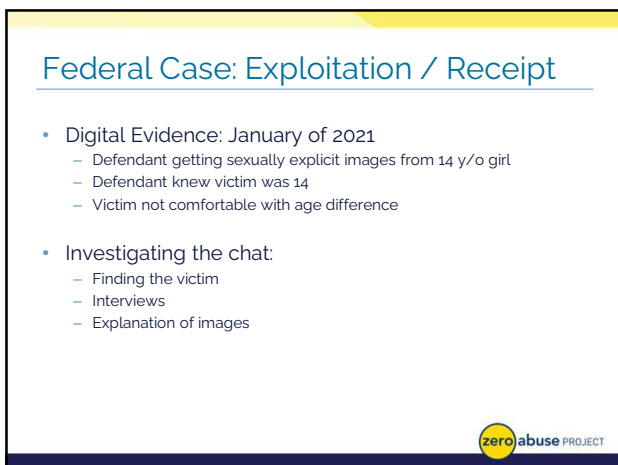
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Federal Case: Exploitation / Receipt

- January of 2021: Sexual Exploitation

i. Images of Minor Victim 1 with her genitals exposed:
 IMG_0418.jpg, IMG_0419.jpg, IMG_0420.jpg, IMG_0421.jpg,
 IMG_0422.jpg, and IMG_0423.jpg. Isiah Austin received these images on or
 between January 22, 2021 and January 30, 2021 using Snapchat, an internet-based
 application.

ii. Videos of Minor Victim 1 with her genital and pubic area exposed:
 cm-chat-media-video-gIKjdjbtdIAperbPA77D.mov, cm-chat-media-video-
 xhWsdFFZZLrskWmkHSE1.mov, IMG_0418.mp4, IMG_0419.mp4,
 IMG_0420.mov, IMG_0421.mov, IMG_0422.mov, and IMG_0423.mov.
 Isiah Austin received these videos on or between January 22, 2021 and January
 30, 2021. These images and videos are listed in Count 1 of the Superseding
 Information.



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Federal Case: Negotiations

- Plea offer reached: August 2, 2022
 - Possession of Child Pornography with a Prior Conviction
 - Set for Change of Plea and Sentencing on 12/28/22



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Federal Case: Negotiations

- What did this plea give Austin?
 - Plea offer: **TOTAL: 10-20 years**
 - What he was eligible to receive:
 - Sexual Exploitation of a Minor: 15-30 years
 - Prior conviction: 25-50 years
 - Reg. sex offender: +10 years
 - TOTAL: 35-60 years**





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3rd Set of Sex Offenses


- Clark County Detention Center:
 - Inmate Tablets: Text Messages
 - Phones in common areas
 - Audio and video calls


 A photograph of the Clark County Detention Center, a large, multi-story, tan-colored building with a sign that reads "Clark County Adult Correction Complex".
 

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3rd Set of Sex Offenses

- Immediate look at texts:
 - Thousands of text messages from his teen girlfriend
 - She had given birth to a *daughter*
 - Lots of talk about sex
 - But then . . .



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Manipulative Chokehold

- Progression:
 - You're my sex slave
 - I want you to have sex with my brother and record it
 - I want you to have sex with my brother and his friend and to record it
 - I want you to sell pussy to make money for us
 - I want you to have sex with my cousin and record it
 - I want my cousin to be your pimp



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Investigating the Calls / Messages

- Search Warrant at Girlfriend's Home



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Investigating the Calls / Messages

- Let's find the cousin!



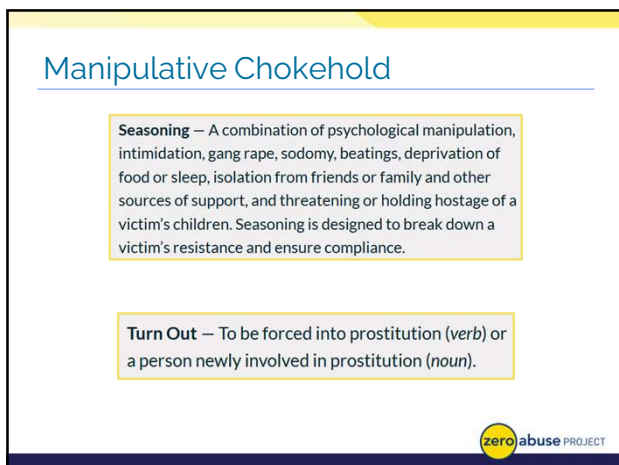
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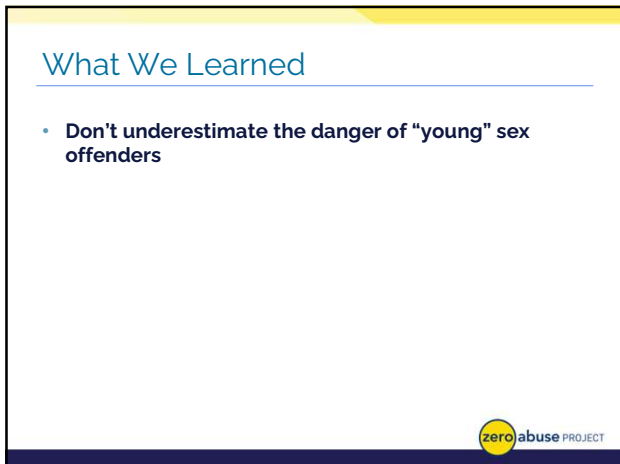
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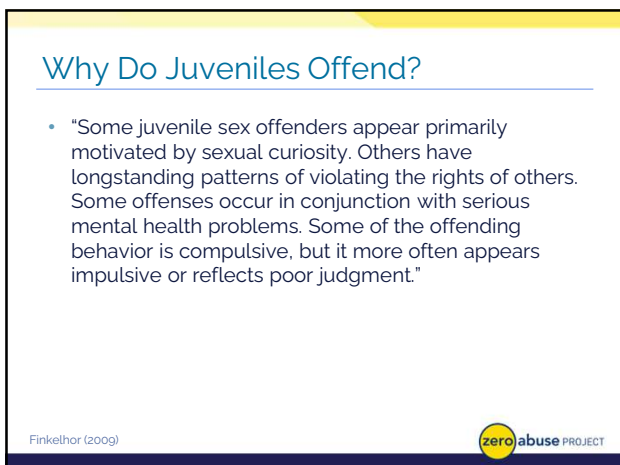
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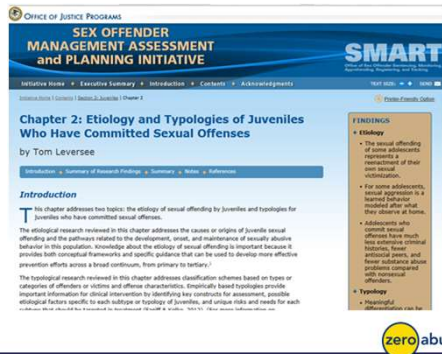


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Why Do Juveniles Offend?



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So what about these "youthful" offenders?

- What are we seeing?
 - Adolescents and young adults with unfettered access to pornography
 - Younger population that is more tech-savvy
 - Offenders with an interest in kids are now emboldened by what they find online
 - Offenders who have a history of being victims of child abuse or intra-family violence

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So what about these "youthful" offenders?

- Lack of consensus as to how to change their behavior *and* to protect the community
- Move away from incarceration
 - But how effective is "containment" approach?
 - What about offenders who lack stability and sources of accountability?
- How to address this offense while also tending to victimization issues?

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So what about these "youthful" offenders?

- Example: Austin
 - Effect of "time-served" plea
 - Absence of immediate and extensive supervision
 - No search of residence
 - No home visit *before* "home detention" granted
 - Absence of employment / education history
 - Bottom line: who would ensure that Austin followed the rules if probation wasn't living with him?



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Youthful Offenders Groom Differently

- Youthful offenders are less capable of grooming **the whole community** than older offenders



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What We Learned

- Pay attention to offenders – even when they're locked up


Liam Cobb



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What We Learned

- **Never underestimate the impacts of sex offenses on “compliant” victims**



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What We Learned

- “Compliant” Victims
 - Despite their best efforts, kids never have the control
 - They will bear the brunt of public shame
 - Adultification



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Final Takeaway: Tech Changes Things



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Tech Changes Things

- How Does Tech Change the Equation?
 - Tech changes case *outcomes*
 - Tech changes *accountability*
 - Tech changes what “the system” *thinks* about offenders



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Tech changes case outcomes

- What if ...



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Accountability Matters



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Accountability Matters

- Tech Matters: Accountability
 - Speed of accountability
 - Perception of accountability
 - Effect of accountability



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Accountability

- How does tech change accountability?
 - Greater likelihood of conviction
 - Pre-trial safety
 - Better understanding of victimization
 - Post-conviction results and supervision



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Accountability Matters

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of Accountability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Immediate release prior to sentencing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What if tech helped? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Release on a GPS monitor? – Immediate search of home by ESD K-9? |
|---|---|



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Accountability: Tech and Offender's Words

- If you want to know who the offender really is
 - Read his writings
 - Listen to his calls
 - Look at his collection
- And if you want the Judge / Jury to know who offender is . . .
 - Give them this evidence



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• Topics:

- On-Demand Courses
- Microlearning videos
- Written docs
- <https://portal.zeroabuseproject.org/login/>

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- CFCP FFS-Sticks to Flowers
- Child Abuse Investigations in Tribal Contexts
- Commercial Financial Exploitation
- Cross Examining Defendants and Defense Witnesses
- Cryptocurrency
- Enhancing LE Response to CA Investigations
- From Submission to Court
- Going on Offense - Protecting Victims from Witness Coercion
- Internet Trends and Key Technologies
- Making it Count
- Maternal Darkness
- Normal is Normal
- Preparing Witnesses in a Child Abuse Case
- Trauma-Informed Approaches to Victims of Technology Facilitated Abuse
- Trial Preparation Primer
- We're Just Going to Talk_Presenting your case in opening
- When the Child Abuser Carries a Bible

• Also Microlearning!

- Using Social Media in ICAC Investigations
- CSA Suspect Interviews
- Sextortion
- Tips for Presenting Medical Evidence
- Prepping Children for the Process
- Developing a Theme
- Tips for Cross-Examination
- Witness Order in Child Abuse Trials
- Prepping LE's for Court
- Attention Grabbing Ways to Start a Case
- 5 questions to ask in Jury Selection

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