

Dear House Public Safety Committee members,

2-12-2025

There's been bipartisan support for this legislation (HF127) in the past and I trust that will occur again. Protecting children from the worst of the worst offenders is an issue that everyone can get behind.

Weak sentences for these crimes against innocent children came to my attention 4 years ago. I started working as a citizen lobbyist to help former Rep. Grossell increase public awareness and now, I've been working with Rep. Knudsen.

We have interacted with thousands of Minnesotans across the state and people are shocked when they learn of how little jail time someone actually serves, who is convicted of possessing crime scene footage of the rape and torture of children.

Even though there was a change to the law in 2021, Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission data shows that this continues to be a huge problem in MN. A data request from (Nov) 2023, showed that the longest amount of time served for 11 offenders was a little over 7 months in jail and that was for Austin Saarinen because he was a repeat offender with a criminal history score of 4. According to the MSGC data, almost 90% of those convicted of possession serve little to no jail time.

Probation officers do the best they can, however, they are not with these offenders 24/7, so no one is stopping them from shattering innocent children's lives. The offenders are also most likely to also be hands-on abusers.

A recent example is an active case involving Thomas Humiston who used to live in Minnesota and was just arrested in Nevada for sexual misconduct crimes against an 8 & 10 year old. During the investigation they've coordinated with the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office, because he has been charged with 2 felony counts of 1st degree penetration or contact with a person under 13 in Beltrami County. Information has also led them to believe Humiston is in possession of & distributing digital child sexual abuse material.

It is gut retching every time I read another alert of an arrest or conviction of one of these predators in MN. I'm thankful when they are prosecuted federally, because then I know they will actually serve prison time and be off the streets, where they can't hurt or exploit children anymore.

A million thanks to Chair Novotny and his team for moving Minnesota in the right direction to increase public safety and bring justice for these innocent children.

I've included some disturbing news stories of cases of possession of child sexual abuse materials, so you can see this is an ongoing horrific problem in Minnesota and it is time to work together to grind this criminal activity to a halt.

Best regards,
Kelly Janssen Thelen
Park Rapids, MN

In the recent news:

1. [MN Inmate hacked prison-issued tablets to access child porn.](#)

"Forensic analysis revealed that Vu's tablet had been used to access restricted websites and was linked to over 20 images of child sexual abuse material depicting girls estimated to be between the ages of 4 and 13, according to prosecutors."

2. Child sex abuse reported in Northern California leads investigators to Nevada and Minnesota.

"Investigators assigned to the case coordinated their investigation with a Beltrami County Sheriff's Office Investigator. Beltrami Investigators were able to develop probable cause that Humiston committed sex crimes in Beltrami County as well.

Alpine County Investigators coordinated with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) due to the severity of the crimes alleged and crimes occurring in different states.

Additionally, there was information leading investigators to believe that Humiston was in possession of / distributing digital Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

On Tuesday, January 28, 2025, Beltrami County Sheriff's Office issued a nationwide arrest warrant for Humiston. The charges outlined within the arrest warrant included two Felony counts of 1st Degree Penetration or Contact with a Person under 13."

Read more at:

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article299806809.html#storylink=cpy>

More on this case from Alpine County Sheriff's

office: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14jn4MTmMH/>

3. SE Minnesota Man Sentenced in International Child Sex Crimes Case

Read More: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/steele-county-man-sentenced-over-17-years-international-sexual-exploitation-children>

"According to an indictment handed down by a federal grand jury last April, Sokel was caught in possession of child sexual abuse materials while he was returning to the U.S. after traveling to Thailand as a result of an investigation by U.S. Customs and Border Protection."

Read More: [SE Minnesota Man Sentenced in International Child Sex Crimes Case](https://krocnews.com/se-minnesota-man-sentenced-in-international-child-sex-crimes-case/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral) | https://krocnews.com/se-minnesota-man-sentenced-in-international-child-sex-crimes-case/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral

4. Read More: [Convicted MN Child Porn Offender Found Guilty of New Charges](https://krocnews.com/convicted-mn-child-offender-found-guilty-of-new-charges/) <https://krocnews.com/convicted-mn-child-offender-found-guilty-of-new-charges/>

"According to the [charges](#), investigators took him into custody after finding an Apple iPhone in his pocket, which was a violation of his probation. Prosecutors say he was then recorded during calls from jail directing family members on "how to remotely lock it and erase the contents" of the iPhone."

5. **"47-year-old Matthew Adamson** today was given a nearly 20 year prison sentence for his conviction on a federal charge of producing or attempting to produce [child pornography](#). According to federal court documents, Adamson was accused of producing child pornography, and in some cases, secretly recording 12 and 13-year-old girls multiple times from 2015 through 2023. He was also accused of coercing a minor girl into having [sexual contact](#) with him and possessing sexually explicit images and videos of children."

Read More: [Former Olmsted County Deputy Sentenced For Child Porn Conviction](https://krocnews.com/former-olmsted-county-deputy-sentenced-for-child-porn-conviction/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral) | https://krocnews.com/former-olmsted-county-deputy-sentenced-for-child-porn-conviction/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral