



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

For Immediate Release
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Detectives Arrest Man for Felony Exploitation of Children

Pueblo, CO: Pueblo County Sheriff's detectives arrested a 43-year-old Pueblo man Tuesday for felony sexual exploitation of children after finding more than 1,100 images and videos of child pornography in his possession.

Detectives arrested Matthew Phelps on an arrest warrant on three counts of felony exploitation of children. He has been booked into the Pueblo County Jail.

Phelps' arrest comes after several months of investigation by Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) detectives. Detectives began investigating Phelps in May after receiving a tip through ICAC that someone at a residence in the 27000 block of Woburn Abbey on the St. Charles Mesa had been downloading child pornography.

Detectives learned that more than 1,100 pornographic images and videos of children ranging in age from teenager to infants had been downloaded from the internet. The actions were associated with the Woburn Abbey address where Phelps resides.

Detectives obtained and executed search warrants at the home and on electronic devices found in the home and discovered the more than a thousand images and videos. Detectives questioned Phelps and he admitted to having viewed pornography in the past. Following an extensive investigation, detectives sought an arrest warrant for Phelps and took him into custody without incident.

Pueblo County Sheriff David J. Lucero praised the work PCSO detectives did on this case, while working collaboratively with Internet Crimes Against Children and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

"We are fully committed to protecting children and ensuring that those who exploit them are held accountable," said Sheriff Lucero. "While we do not know who these victims are, I commend our detectives for the difficult and tireless investigative work they did in identifying the offender and making an arrest in this most disturbing crime.

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