

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RISA VETRI FERMAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KEVIN R. STEELE
FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SAMUEL J. GALLEN
CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

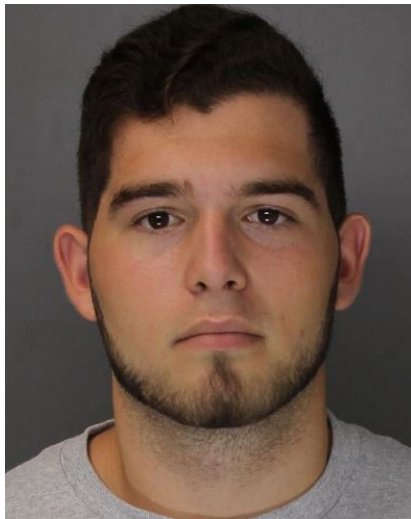
JESSE S. KING
CHIEF OF STAFF

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX
COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU

(610) 278-3090
(610) 278-3095
(610) 278-3368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

Former North Penn High School Student Arrested in Drop Box Nude Photo Scandal



Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman, along with Ambler Borough Police Chief William F. Foley, Jr., Hatfield Township Police Chief William J. Tierney, Lansdale Borough Police Chief Robert McDyre, Montgomery Township Police Chief J. Scott Bendig, North Wales Borough Police Chief Alex H. Levy, Towamencin Township Police Chief Paul T. Dickinson, and Upper Gwynedd Township Police Chief David W. Duffy announce the arrest of Brandon T. Berlin for Transmission of Sexually Explicit Images By Minor.

On March 7, 2015 a report was made by a juvenile female to Ambler Borough Police that she had uncovered a website containing numerous sexually explicit images of females, many of whom were under the age of 18. These females were either current or former students of North Penn High School in Towamencin Township. After this initial report, and as additional individuals reported the same information to law enforcement, a joint investigation was launched which included the Ambler Borough Police Department, the Hatfield Township Police Department, the Lansdale Borough Police Department, the Montgomery Township Police Department, the North Wales Borough Police Department, the Towamencin Township Police Department, the Upper Gwynedd Township Police Department, and the Montgomery County Detective Bureau.

Investigators learned that the website containing these images was associated with Dropbox.com, an internet website that allows users to create an account and remotely store and share a variety of digital files. After a thorough joint investigation, investigators concluded that the individual responsible for creating the account associated with the Drop Box website that contained the sexually explicit photographs was Brandon Tyler Berlin. Berlin is an 18 year-old male from Montgomery Township, Montgomery County. At the time of this incident he was a senior student at North Penn High School. Berlin has since graduated.

Links that connected to the Drop Box account created by Berlin were then disseminated for others to view the photographs. Though investigators identified other individuals that received some of the images prior to Berlin, it was Berlin that took the extraordinary step of compiling the photographs he collected from various sources on his Drop Box account.

Investigators interviewed dozens of individuals and executed search warrants. One of those search warrants returned results from the Drop Box account that was disseminated and contained the sexually explicit images in question. The registration information provided to Drop Box for the account was Berlin's and other files contained on the account not related to the images in question also belonged to Berlin. The file within the Drop Box account that contained the sexually explicit images that were disseminated was entitled, "I prolly had ur pics." A review of the 2015 North Penn High School yearbook revealed this to be Berlin's senior quote. In an interview with police, Berlin admitted to creating the Drop Box account, gathering the sexually explicit photographs, and disseminating links to the Drop Box account.

Berlin engaged in this conduct as a juvenile. As a result, a juvenile petition was filed against Berlin on Wednesday, September 2, 2015. On that same date Berlin's case was transferred for criminal prosecution as an adult pursuant to 42 Pa. C.S.A. § 6355. Bail was set at \$10,000 unsecured with, among other conditions, that the defendant have no contact with victims or witnesses involved with the case.

Assistant District Attorney Stewart Ryan is assigned to prosecute the defendant.

Approved for release:

Risa Vetri Ferman

CRIMINAL CHARGES AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.