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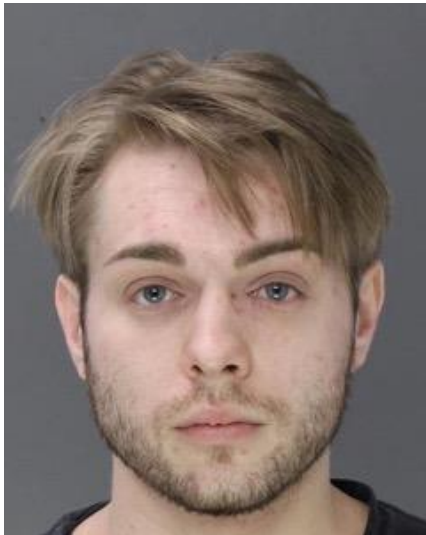
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 2016

HUNTINGDON VALLEY MAN CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTING AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY



NORRISTOWN, Pa.— Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Abington Township Police Chief William J. Kelly and the Pennsylvania Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force announce the arrest of James Edward Mugford III, 26, of Huntingdon Valley for felony charges of Distribution of Child Pornography, Possession of Child Pornography and Criminal Use of a Communication Facility.

On January 5, 2016 Abington Township Detective Richard Beaghley began an undercover, electronic communications operation on the Internet. The investigation located a computer that was specifically configured to anonymously share files with others. When Detective Beaghley directly connected to this computer, he electronically received 175 files of child pornography. The investigation traced the computer to the defendant's home. Detectives executed a search warrant on Mugford's home and seized an Apple MacBook computer. A forensic examination of the Apple MacBook revealed a total of 2,019 images and three videos of child pornography.

Mugford was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge John Kessler and was released on \$20,000 bail. He waived his preliminary hearing on reduced counts of 25 counts of distribution and 50 counts of possession.

Major Crimes Detectives of the Montgomery County Detective Bureau along with specially training and sworn detectives from county police departments routinely work with the ICAC Task Force to protect children from Internet predators by aggressively and proactively investigating Internet crimes of a sexual nature committed against children.

Approved for release:

Edward F. McCann, Jr.
First Assistant District Attorney

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