

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
WESTERN DIVISION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CR 21-50135

Plaintiff,

FACTUAL BASIS STATEMENT

vs.

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS DAHL,

Defendant.

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The Defendant states the following facts are true, and the parties agree that they establish a factual basis for the offense(s) to which Defendant is pleading guilty pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(b)(3).

On Saturday, August 7, 2021, Investigator Jesse Fagerland posted an "Event" on fetlife.com as part of an undercover child sex exploitation operation hosted by the South Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in conjunction with Homeland Security Investigations. Inv. Fagerland titled the event "Motorcycle Rally Fun". Inv. Fagerland described the event with a series of emojis; school crossing sign, double heart, triple heart, cherries and a tongue. These emojis are sometimes used by sex traffickers to communicate sexual exploitation. Additionally, Inv. Fagerland provided his undercover phone number.

On August 10, 2021, Inv. Fagerland received a text message from 315-871-7331 on his undercover number inquiring about the FetLife event. The owner of the phone was determined to be Christopher Dahl. Dahl informed the

undercover persona of the various sexual fetishes he was interested in. When asked if he was okay with a 14-year-old, Dahl stated he was and further stated "I absolutely love the younger the better." Additionally, in the text messages, Dahl agreed to meet the undercover persona to pay \$250 to have sex in "all holes" of the 14-year-old girl with no condom.

At approximately 1616 hours, Dahl advised he was about to leave Sturgis. At approximately 1700 hours, Dahl was given the meet location. At approximately 1705, Dahl arrived at the meet location. Dahl met with the on-site undercover agent, approached the agent's vehicle, and displayed \$250 in cash. Law Enforcement converged on the vehicle and took Dahl into custody. His cell phone was located on his motorcycle and had the meeting location pulled up on the open home screen in a location mapping application.

Fetlife.com operates solely on the internet. When the communications went to text message they were still communicating in and affecting interstate commerce because the cell service utilized cell towers out of the district of South Dakota.

ALISON J. RAMSDELL  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY


7/28/22  
Date

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July 27, 2022  
Date

7-27-22  
Date

  
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Christopher Thomas Dahl  
Defendant

  
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Matthew J. Kinney  
Attorney for Defendant