



## **OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**AUGUST 31, 2015**

### **Hatboro Man Arrested for Possession of Child Pornography**



#### **Russell Hunt Bates**

Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and East Norriton Township Police Chief Karyl Kates announce the arrest of Russell Hunt Bates, 33, of Hatboro for 14 counts of Dissemination of Child Pornography, 76 counts of Possession of Child Pornography and Criminal Use of a Communication Facility.

In cooperation with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force, the Montgomery County Detective Bureau and the East Norriton Township Police have combined efforts in protecting children from internet predators. In addition to his regular duties as an East Norriton Township Police Department Detective, Michael Henricks is sworn as a Special Montgomery County Detective by District Attorney Ferman. His specific enforcement focus relating to ICAC involves detecting and arresting child predators.

On Thursday May 28, 2015 Detective Henricks became involved in an undercover, electronic communication exchange utilizing the BitTorrent file sharing network. During this exchange, another BitTorrent user shared 46 files with Detective Henricks. These

files consisted of images of naked children and children being sexually assaulted by adults.

On Friday, June 19, 2015 Detective Henricks had a second exchange with the same BitTorrent user. During this exchange, Detective Henricks was able to confirm the user had hundreds of pieces of child pornography files on his computer.

The same computer IP address was utilized during these exchanges. Detective Henricks determined the physical location of the IP address was Bates' home at 50 South Penn Street, Apartment 507, Hatboro.

On Thursday, August 27, 2015 Detective Henricks, Montgomery County Detectives, Officers from the Hatboro Police Department and other members of the ICAC Task Force served a search warrant on Bates' home. Detective Henricks conducted an abbreviated search of Bates' laptop computer. He located 74 images and 2 videos which depicted children involved in sexual acts or poses. Bates was then arrested.

A thorough, forensic search of Bates' computer is pending. He may face additional charges or counts if that search identifies additional crimes against children.

On Thursday, August 27, 2015 Bates faced preliminary arraignment before Magisterial District Judge James Gallagher. Bail was set at \$1,000,000 cash. He was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility pending a preliminary hearing on Tuesday, September 8, 2015.

Assistant District Attorney Kathleen Colgan is prosecuting the case.

Approved for Release:

Risa Vetri Ferman

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