

September 15, 2021

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, ASSAULT CHARGES AGAINST MARSHALL MAN

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced additional charges have been filed against John D. Pitts, who was previously charged with possessing child pornography.

Pitts, 49, of Marshall, Illinois, was charged in Clark County Circuit Court with 13 counts of production of child pornography, Class X felonies punishable by six to 30 years in prison, and nine counts of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, Class X felonies punishable by six to 60 years in prison. In July, Raoul's office, along with Clark County State's Attorney Kyle Hutson's office, charged Pitts with five counts of possession of child pornography. Pitts' bond for all charges is set at \$150,000.

"The law enforcement partnerships through the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force continue to be critical as we identify and apprehend individuals who download and trade child pornography. The collaborations through the task force have also allowed us to identify individuals who assault children in real life and ensure they are held accountable," Raoul said. "I encourage anyone who has information about the defendant to immediately contact the Marshall Police Department."

On July 22, Raoul's investigators, with the assistance of the Marshall Police Department, conducted a search of Pitts' residence and arrested him after discovering evidence of child pornography. Investigators handling the case later discovered that Pitts had allegedly recorded himself repeatedly sexually assaulting a child.

Attorney General Raoul is encouraging the members of the public who have additional information to contact Det. Brian Jaeger of the Marshall Police Department at 217-826-8081.

The Attorney General's office will prosecute the case with Hutson's office.

"I appreciate the Attorney General's office for their efforts and resources to investigate this case," Hutson said. "I look forward to the continued partnership between my office, the Attorney General's office and local law enforcement to prosecute offenders who exploit, assault and commit crimes against children."

"I thank the Illinois Attorney General's office for their continued dedication in investigating this case," Marshall Police Chief Chris Smithson said. "These crimes have a lasting impact on our community, so I encourage anyone who has additional information to contact the Marshall Police Department as soon as possible."

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The case is part of Attorney General Raoul's work to investigate and prosecute child pornographers in Illinois. Raoul's office, with a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, runs the [Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children \(ICAC\) Task Force](#) that investigates child exploitation crimes and trains law enforcement agencies. Since 2006, the Attorney General's ICAC Task Force has been involved in more than 1,780 arrests of sexual predators. The task force also has provided internet safety training and education to more than 953,500 parents, teachers and students and more than 23,100 law enforcement professionals.