

Sex offender held for porn

City man had secret cell phone with child images, police say

BY JONATHAN SHUGARTS
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WATERBURY — A registered sex offender living in the Bucks Hill neighborhood who served prison time for trying to meet an underage girl for sex is facing new charges after police say he was swapping child porn online.

Michael Perry, 33, served three years of a five-year prison sentence and was on parole when authorities say they discovered a secret cell phone he had stashed in the closet of his parents' bedroom last week.

Perry, of 488 Perkins Ave., is now being held on a \$150,000 bond and is due in Waterbury Superior Court later this month after police say they found more than 50 illegal images of girls, some as young as 3, on computers

and a phone seized from his home.

Perry was sentenced to prison in 2009 in connection with an arrest by Meriden police in 2008. In addition to trying to meet a girl for sex, he pleaded guilty to possessing child porn in that case, court records show. Perry was paroled early in 2011, placed on the sex offender registry and was living in Waterbury, where a probation officer was keeping tabs on him.

Perry came under scrutiny by authorities this month after the probation officer told police that Perry admitted to her that he had used a cell phone and two computers to obtain child pornography.

At the time, Perry was re-

stricted from using computers and wasn't allowed to chat online or use social networks.

Parole officers seized the machines and the phone, turning them over to Detective Peter Morgan, who used specialized forensic software to recover data that had been erased, according to a city police report.

Perry, who had worked as a road flagger and was living with his parents, later admitted to authorities that he hadn't told his parole officer about a second cell phone he was using and had hidden the device in his mother's bedroom closet.

Morgan found more than 50 images on that phone, some of which showed underage girls having sex with adults, according to police.

Other illegal images were also found on a computer seized from his home.

Perry told authorities he used his parents' computer to play an online game called Eve Online, a science-fiction-based game involving space ships. Perry told authorities he used a Web browser in the game to view online child porn.

He also visited an online chat website and a social media site where he met people who traded child porn with him, according to a city police report.

Perry was charged with first-degree possession of child pornography and may be charged with violating his probation. He's due in court on Aug. 28. Should he make his six-figure bond, a judge ordered that a GPS system should be put in place to track his whereabouts.



Perry

CONTRIBUTED