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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA           :     Hon. Cathy L. Waldor  
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  :     Magistrate. No. 22-9335  
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  :     :  
WILLIAM HARBESON                   :     **CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, Peter Ricciardi, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

**SEE ATTACHMENT A**

I further state that I am a Task Force Officer with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

**SEE ATTACHMENT B**

Continued on the attached pages and made a part hereof.

*/s/ Peter Ricciardi*

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Task Force Officer Peter Ricciardi  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Homeland Security Investigations

Task Force Officer Peter Ricciardi attested to this Complaint by telephone pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1(b)(2)(A), on November 21, 2022.

*/s/ Hon. Cathy L. Waldor*

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Honorable Cathy L. Waldor  
United States Magistrate Judge

**ATTACHMENT A**

**COUNT ONE**

(Distribution of Child Pornography)

From on or about May 26, 2022 to on or about September 12, 2022, in Morris County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

**WILLIAM HARBESON,**

did knowingly distribute child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce and that had been mailed, and had been shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(2)(A).

## **ATTACHMENT B**

I, Peter Ricciardi, am a Task Force Officer with the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations. I am fully familiar with the facts set forth herein based on my own investigation, my conversations with witnesses and other law enforcement officers, and my review of reports, documents, and items of evidence. Where statements of others are related herein, they are related in substance and in part. Because this complaint is being submitted for a limited purpose, I have not set forth each and every fact that I know concerning this investigation. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date, I am asserting that it took place on or about the date alleged.

### **Background**

1. At all times relevant to this Complaint, defendant William Harbeson (“HARBESON”) was a resident of Boonton Township, New Jersey.

### **The Investigation**

2. From on or about May 26, 2022 to on or about September 12, 2022, law enforcement conducted undercover online sessions (the “Sessions”) using a publicly available peer-to-peer (“P2P”) software application program (the “P2P Program”). P2P is a method of communication available to Internet users through the use of special software. The software is designed to allow users to trade digital files through a worldwide network that is formed by linking computers together. Generally, when P2P software is installed on a computer, the user is directed to specify a “shared” folder. All files placed in that user’s “shared” folder are available to anyone on the worldwide network for download. A person interested in sharing child pornography with others in the P2P network need only place those files in his or her “shared” folders. Those child pornography files are then available to all users of the P2P network for download regardless of their physical location. The computers that are linked together to form the P2P network are located throughout the world; therefore, the P2P network operates in interstate and foreign commerce.

3. The P2P Program allows users to connect to and share, search, and download content. The version used by law enforcement allows law enforcement to determine the IP address through which target computers access the Internet.

4. During the Sessions, a computer user (the “Computer”) shared multiple files of child pornography using the P2P Program. The undercover law enforcement officer established a direct connection to the Computer. Several of the files being shared by the Computer had a hash value that has been identified to contain visual depictions of children engaged in sexual

acts with adults. These files were shared during the Sessions by the Computer using two IP Addresses (the “Target IP Addresses”). Video files and images of child pornography were available from the Target IP Addresses, which other users accessing the P2P Network could download.

5. Indeed, during the Sessions, law enforcement downloaded approximately 307 video files and 296 image files containing child pornography from the Computer, which was utilizing the Target IP Addresses. The video and image files included multiple visual depictions of prepubescent children engaged in sexual acts with adults and other children, including the following representative sample:

<b>FILE NAME</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<p>File Name / Number: 5 YO Pees, then SUCKS man’s big dick till he cums on floor! She wipes it up.. some GOOD sucking action! Frifam PTHC</p> <p>Hash Value: 99fd266d0eddd6a 51504ff84b94cdf53</p>	<p>This video is approximately 3 minutes and 46 seconds long and depicts a pre-pubescent female, approximately 5-6 years old, peeing and then performing oral sex on an adult male. This video file was downloaded by law enforcement during a session lasting between approximately 11:36 a.m. on June 23, 2022, and 11:37 a.m. on or about June 24, 2022.</p>
<p>File Name/Number: 000231</p> <p>Hash Value: No Hash Value</p>	<p>This partially downloaded video, which would be 4 minutes and 39 seconds in length if complete, begins by depicting two nude prepubescent females, approximately 3-5 years old, in a bathtub looking up toward the camera, which is apparently being held by an adult male, the only portion of which that is visible is his erect penis, upper legs, and left hand. The video depicts one of the prepubescent females manually stimulating the erect penis and then performing oral sex. The second prepubescent female is depicted with her legs spread exposing her genital area. This video file was downloaded by law enforcement during a session lasting between approximately 1:35 p.m. on July 25, 2022, and 1:42 p.m. on or about July 26, 2022.</p>
<p>File Name/Number: (PTHC) Kelly 8Yo – Sucking &amp; Trying Fuck</p>	<p>This video is approximately 3 minutes and 4 seconds long and depicts a nude pre-pubescent female, approximately 7-8 years old, engaging in oral sex and vaginal intercourse with an adult male. Later in the video, the adult male attempts several</p>

FILE NAME	DESCRIPTION
Hash Value: 5d3b571b0411924b d87846e4c52fb674	times to penetrate the pre-pubescent female's anus. The video concludes with the pre-pubescent female sitting back with her anus and vagina exposed to the camera. This video file was downloaded by law enforcement during a session lasting between approximately 12:44 p.m. on September 11, 2022, and 12:50 p.m. on or about September 12, 2022.

6. The Target IP Addresses were assigned, at the approximate times of the Sessions, to an account registered to HARBESON's residence in Boonton Township, New Jersey (the "Residence").

7. Law enforcement obtained a judicially authorized search warrant for the Residence. On or about November 9, 2022, law enforcement executed the search warrant at the Residence. During the search of the Residence, law enforcement seized, among other things, a LianLi Computer Tower (the "Computer Tower") containing six Seagate external hard drives, which were located in a small storage/computer room.

8. At the time of the search, one other resident, who is related to HARBESON, was present at the Residence. HARBESON stated, in sum and substance, that only he used the Computer Tower.

9. A forensic review of the hard drives in the Computer Tower revealed approximately 38 video files and 351 image files that appeared to depict child pornography.

10. Based upon my education, training and experience, and my discussions with other law enforcement officers, and to the best of my knowledge, the child pornography files described in Paragraph 5 above, traveled in interstate commerce and were produced using materials that were mailed and shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, that is, the images were downloaded from and transmitted via the Internet.