

FBI: Special ed teacher caught with infant rape photos

Vancouver man charged with collecting child pornography online

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A Vancouver middle school teacher accused of collecting child pornography online now faces federal charges.

Federal prosecutors in Seattle claim Jay Michaud was caught downloading child pornography in February. Michaud was arrested Monday and has since been charged in U.S. District Court.

Writing the court, an FBI special agent said Michaud spent nearly 100 hours surfing a hidden online network specializing in child pornography. The agent noted that the secret nature of the website would make it extremely difficult to come across accidentally.

Michaud is alleged to have signed up to the network in late October. In the four months that followed, he viewed 187 "threads," most of which related to child pornography, the FBI agent said in court papers.

Having identified Michaud as the user in late June, investigators then learned he was Vancouver School District employee, the agent continued. As it turned out, Michaud had worked for the district for two decades.

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Investigators searched Michaud's home Friday, seizing electronics they claim contained images depicting child rape. According to charging papers, several images showed infants being raped.

Due to be placed on administrative leave immediately, Michaud has been working for the district for more than 20 years.

Michaud previously worked as an assistant at several schools before obtaining his teaching certificate in 2002 and going to work at Gaiser Middle School, where he'd worked since. For the past 2 ½ years, he has been on special assignment to the district's central office coaching other teachers in the district.

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A school district spokeswoman said Michaud had not previously been the subject of any complaints. He has no criminal history.

Court records indicate Michaud was arrested Monday and remains in federal custody. He had not yet appeared in court Tuesday afternoon.

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