



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Attorney General Frosh, State's Attorney Alsobrooks Announce Christopher Speights Pleads Guilty to Charges of Child Porn and Abuse**

**LARGO, MD (March 23, 2018)** – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh and Prince George's County State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks today announced that Christopher Speights of Brandywine, pleaded guilty to one count of Distribution of Child Pornography, one count of Possession of Child Pornography, one count of Sexual Child Abuse and one count of Photographing Child Pornography before Prince George's County Circuit Court Judge Cathy Hollenberg Serrette. Speights will be sentenced in July. In a related case, Speights pled guilty in Federal Court earlier this week to Production of Child Pornography and Attempted Production of Child Pornography.

On December 13, 2016, the Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Section received a referral from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children regarding the possession and distribution of child pornography on a DropBox account, an online social networking service. Maryland State Police obtained a warrant to search the files and images that were uploaded to the site and determined the vast majority of the files contained videos and images of boys believed to be between the ages of 10 and 12 years old, engaged in sexual conduct. Maryland State Police and agents from Homeland Security executed a search and seizure warrant of Speights' residence. Speights admitted to uploading the images onto his DropBox account and stated that he was employed by the Prince George's County Public School System as a substitute teacher and also coached a local youth basketball team.

Upon review of seized electronic devices, Maryland State Police found additional images that were produced by Speights. The majority of these images led to the charges Speights pleaded to in federal court. However, police found additional images that were taken during school-sanctioned field trips where Speights served as chaperone.

"Christopher Speights used his position to prey on innocent children," said Attorney General Frosh. "He betrayed the trust of his employer, of the parents who entrusted their children to him, and most of all, the children he supervised and coached. He now faces many years in jail and will no longer be able to victimize young children."

"Mr. Speights abused the trust and authority that came with his position, using it to abuse children he was supposed to be teaching and protecting," said Prince George's County State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks. "I want to thank the Attorney General's Office for working with

us to ensure that Mr. Speights was held accountable for his actions and that he will no longer be able to hurt anymore children. I hope that today's plea and his upcoming sentencing hearings will help the impacted children and families in the healing process."

During the course of this investigation, a hotline was set up for Prince George's County families that wanted to share any information with police and/or set up a meeting with forensic examiners. Families are encouraged to reach out to Maryland State Police if they have any additional concerns. They may call the hotline at 1-800-637-5437.

In making today's announcement, Attorney General Frosh thanked Organized Crime Unit Chief Katie Dorian, Assistant Attorney General Kelly A. Burrell, Special Assistant Attorney General Brenda Harkavy and the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office. Attorney General Frosh also thanked TFC Frank Donald of the Maryland State Police, Assistant US Attorney Timothy Hagan, and the Department of Homeland Security for their hard work in this investigation and prosecution.