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FORMER TEACHER SENTENCED TO 81 YEARS FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

On Friday, January 24, 2014, 43 year-old Jeffrey Dean Gerron of Ennis was sentenced to a total of 81 years on nine counts of possession of child pornography. The seven woman, five man jury took about an hour to sentence Gerron to 9 years on each of the nine counts. Judge Bob Carroll then ordered those sentences to run consecutively.

On Thursday, The same jury found him guilty of the nine counts of possession of child pornography. Gerron was targeted by Homeland Security agents during an investigation in 2006 of a company that was selling commercial access to numerous child pornography websites. Gerron was believed to have made a purchase allowing him a twenty day subscription to one of the child pornography websites. On June 8, 2009, agents went to Gerron's home in Ennis, Texas where he lived with his mother. Agents searched his computer and found what they believed to be numerous images that were consistent with child pornography. A forensic analysis of the computer revealed over 11, 000 images of children and multiple anime images depicting sexual acts against children. At the time of the seizure of Gerron's computer, he was employed as a high school teacher in Lancaster, Texas.

In her closing argument to the jury Assistant County & District Attorney Lindy Tober implored the jury to remember the true victims of Gerron's crime: the children in the photographs. Based on the evidence presented, of Gerron she said, "You can tell what is in his mind and in his heart. That is someone that is depraved. Take him out of our community for as long as you possibly can."

After the verdict County & District Attorney Patrick Wilson made the following statement: "Child pornography victimizes real children in the pursuit of deviant desire. We proved that in this case through the testimony of a Norwegian police officer. Because of the internet child pornography has become an insidious crime from which the victims can never be free. Once they are abused and exploited the victims' images are forever traded on cyberspace by depraved individuals like Gerron. This verdict and sentence sends a powerful message for the protection of children."

GERRON BOOKING PHOTO ON PAGE 2

