

Broome child predator dies in fight in federal detention

Maire led online sex ring that exploited more than 100 girls

Anthony Borrelli

Press and Sun-Bulletin

and Detroit Free Press staff

USA TODAY NETWORK

A Broome County man serving a 40-year sentence for leading an international child sexual exploitation ring has died at a federal detention center in Michigan after a fight involving seven inmates.

Christian Maire, 40, had life-threatening injuries after the “altercation” Tuesday at the Milan detention center about 50 miles southwest of Detroit and was pronounced dead, a statement Friday from the Federal Bureau of Prisons announced.

Maire, a married father of two, sobbed at his December sentencing hearing in Michigan, telling the judge: “I am sick.”

The online sex scam operation, which involved nine men in different states, exploited more than 100 girls nationwide, including a Michigan girl who helped the FBI bust the scheme — that was why the U.S. Attorney’s Office prosecuted the case there.

Maire and his co-defendants lured girls onto the dark web and persuaded them to strip, masturbate and perform illicit sexual acts on a webcam. They even persuaded some girls to cut themselves while they watched.

As one victim at the December sentencing told the judge: “Thinking back to those days causes me to cry myself to sleep, wondering when the monsters will stop haunting me.”

The nine defendants, including Maire, all pleaded guilty and were sentenced to decades in prison.

Details of how Maire was attacked weren’t immediately released by federal authorities, but his death was being investigated as an apparent homicide.

The prison was placed on “limited operational status” with visiting suspended.

the defendants in October 2017, and a federal grand jury followed with a sweeping indictment against all nine defendants.

Court records say Maire earned an undergraduate degree from a university in Canada (the records don’t name it) and a master’s degree from the University of Southampton. His LinkedIn profile described him as being involved in high-technology computer businesses in the Binghamton area, beginning in 2005.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office, in sentencing documents (the defense’s documents were sealed in court), argued that the scope of Maire’s criminal conduct outweighed any of the positive pursuits in his life.

“Maire had everything: a wife, children, higher education, a good job, family support and a wealth of life experience,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Mulcahy said in court documents. “Maire played the role of loving husband and father, but spent much of his free time sexually exploiting some other father’s precious daughter.”

The other men convicted in the ring were:

- Arthur Simpatico, 47, of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. He was sentenced to 38 years.
- Jonathan Negroni Rodriguez, 37, of West Hollywood, California, was sentenced to 35 years.
- Michal Figura, 36, of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, was sentenced to 31 1/4 years.
- Odell Ortega, 37, of Miami, was sentenced to 37 1/2 years.
- Brett Jonathan Sinta, 36, of Hickory, North Carolina, was sentenced to 30 1/2 years.
- Caleb Young, 38, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, was sentenced to 30 years.
- Daniel Walton, 34 Saginaw, Texas, was sentenced to 30 1/2 years.

Includes reporting by The Associated Press.

Geneva City Schools

Friday's prison statement says three other inmates were treated for serious injuries and two prison staff members had minor injuries. **Current Teacher Openings:**



Men are housed at the detention center while awaiting trial, sentencing or a permanent prison assignment after being sentenced in federal court. It is adjacent to the low-security Milan prison.

Maire

Maire's internet porn ring used an elaborate setup to snare its victims.

The men pretended to be teenage boys using fake profiles and stolen pictures, then scoured popular social media sites looking for targets.

FBI investigators arrested