

Ex-Holley teacher sentenced for having child porn

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A former Holley High School English teacher who admitted to possessing child pornography was sentenced Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Rochester. Steven Choi, 42, of Irondequoit was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Elizabeth A. Wolford to time served and 15 years of post-release supervision.

Choi pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography in January. He received pornography online between December 2014 and July 16, 2016, according to the criminal complaint. Choi admitted that he sought out child pornography. “Choi said he was into ‘teens’ and when asked why he started looking for child pornography, responded, ‘It’s available,’” according to the criminal complaint.

Choi also admitted, “I know it’s wrong,” the criminal complaint said. He added, “It’s like a drug, trying to get higher by getting more extreme.”

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Melissa Marangola, the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force identified Choi accessing child pornography online. Examination of Choi’s computer recovered sexually explicit photographs of prepubescent girls. Choi, who is no longer employed by the Holley Central School District, also had photos of clothed girls at a “YMCA and ‘Science Center,’” FBI Special Agent Barry Couch alleged in an affidavit.

“When asked if he was sexually aroused by the girl at the Y that looked about 13 years old, Choi responded, ‘I don’t know. Just wanted to satisfy voyeurism,’ “ the affidavit stated.

The affidavit provided no additional specific information about the locations where the photos were allegedly taken. Choi said he didn’t take voyeuristic photos at the school.

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