



News Release

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APD's Cyber Crimes Unit Makes Arrest for Child Pornography and Indecency with a Child

ABILENE, TX –

On February 27, 2018, APD's Cyber Crimes Unit developed information that an unknown person or persons at 465 Cockerell had downloaded child pornography between the dates of July 19 through September 26, 2017. After conducting a follow up investigation to identify the residents of 465 Cockerell at the time of the offense, detectives executed a search warrant at said residence on 3/28/18.

Detective seized several devices during the search warrant and located several items of child pornography and one pair underwear belonging to a child. During a subsequent interview, the arrested party admitted to touching one child under 12 inappropriately in 2017.

The arrested party is identified as Benjamin Roberts, age 24 of Abilene. Roberts had no criminal history prior to yesterday's arrest and would have passed any background check.

Roberts was arrested and charged with Possession of Child Pornography and Indecency with a Child. His bond was set at \$150,000 per charge.

Roberts has worked at several entities where he came into contact with children. Those entities include:

Wylie Baptist Church Day Care
Southern Hills Church of Christ
Beltway Park Church
ACU Community Outreach Home at 465 Cockerell

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Abilene Police Department

"You are the first line of defense against crime"

Stan Standridge, Chief of Police | 450 Pecan | Abilene, TX | 79602

"We work together to build and maintain a community of the highest quality for present and future generations"

Each of these entities is fully cooperating with the Police Department in this investigation.

APD is working to determine the timeline regarding when Roberts worked for each entity. We are also trying to determine any other locations where Roberts may have worked. In this case and with others like it, there is a high likelihood more victims are in our community.

If your child has been in contact with Roberts, please talk to them. Please remember how you handle this situation will affect the long term recovery of your child along with any further prosecution. Should your child outcry as a victim of abuse, please contact the Abilene Police Department immediately at 325-673-8331.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Lynn Beard
Abilene Police Department