

For Immediate Release:

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Contact: Matt Baca -- (505) 270-7148

AG Balderas Announces Detention and Additional Charges Against Man Charged with Videotaping His Sexual Abuse Of A Child

ALBUQUERQUE, NM--- Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that additional charges of Child Exploitation have been filed against Joshua Vigil. Vigil had previously been charged with multiple counts of child exploitation and criminal sexual penetration. After successfully detaining Mr. Vigil, the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General continued investigating the Defendant for other potential crimes against children. According to court documents, the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force at the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General received information from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that Vigil was uploading child sexual abuse material. Further investigation by the Albuquerque Police Department uncovered information that Joshua Vigil had been sexually abusing a child, made video recordings of that abuse, and uploaded those videos to an internet account.

“My office will always seek to protect children from abuse,” said Attorney General Balderas. “We are grateful to the brave survivors for their courage, and we look forward to presenting this case at trial.”

Joshua Vigil was arrested as a result of cooperation between federal and local law enforcement on January 26, 2021. Following a two day, in-person preliminary hearing, the district court found probable cause to believe Vigil committed 17 charges, including counts of criminal sexual penetration of a minor and multiple counts of child exploitation by manufacturing child sexual abuse material. After continued investigation, Mr. Vigil was indicted on four additional charges, including manufacturing and possession of child sexual abuse material on May 21, 2021.

Vigil will continue to remain in custody awaiting trial because the court granted the Attorney General’s motion for pretrial detention on his prior case. The charges contained in the information bound over for trial and the subsequent indictment are only allegations. A person is presumed innocent unless and until he or she is proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. If convicted, Mr. Vigil faces 223.5 years of potential incarceration

This case was investigated by the Albuquerque Police Department in coordination with the Homeland Security Investigations, Department of Health and Human Services, and

the US Marshals Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorneys General Caitlin Dillon, Jonathan Gardner, and Mark Probasco.

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