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United States Attorney's Office
District of Oregon

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Portland Man Sentenced to 10 Years in Federal Prison for Using Instagram to Sexually Exploit Children Online

PORTLAND, Ore.—A Portland man was sentenced to federal prison Thursday for using Instagram, a social media platform, to persuade children to produce and send him sexually explicit images of themselves.

Solomon Dean Cook, 21, was sentenced to 121 months in federal prison and ten years' supervised release. He was also ordered to pay \$103,000 in restitution to his victims.

According to court documents, in January 2022, the parent of a victim in Portland called the FBI's National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) to report that an Instagram user had persuaded their child to produce and share a sexually explicit photo. The user threatened to distribute the image if the child did not continue producing and sending more images. During follow-up interviews with investigators, the victim identified a second child in Portland that Cook victimized.

Federal agents traced two Instagram accounts to Cook and learned that he posed as a "sugar daddy" online by offering large amounts of money to entice children into sending him sexually explicit photos. Once the victims agreed, Cook's demands for sexually explicit materials escalated and he threatened to release images of the victims if they did not comply with his demands. Investigators learned that between November 2021 and May 2022, Cook exploited three minor victims in this manner.

On May 11, 2022, Cook was arrested after agents executed a federal search warrant on his residence. During the search, Cook confessed to enticing the reporting victim into producing a sexually explicit image and to exploiting additional victims in the same manner. Investigators also searched Cook's phone and found sexually explicit images of five minor victims and several adult victims.

On June 7, 2022, a federal grand jury in Portland returned a four-count indictment [charging](#) Cook with sexual exploitation of children, attempted sexual exploitation of children, and receiving and possessing child pornography.

On September 4, 2024, Cook pleaded guilty to three counts of enticing a minor online and one count of possessing child pornography.

This case was investigated by FBI Portland's Child Exploitation Task Force (CETF). It is being prosecuted by Mira Chernick, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon.

Anyone who has information about the physical or online exploitation of children are encouraged to call the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324) or submit a tip online at tips.fbi.gov.

The FBI CETF conducts sexual exploitation investigations, many of them undercover, in coordination with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. CETF is committed to locating and arresting those who prey on children as well as recovering and assisting victims of sex trafficking and child exploitation.

Federal law defines child pornography as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a minor. It is important to remember child sexual abuse material depicts actual crimes being committed against children. Not only do these images and videos document the victims' exploitation and abuse, but when shared across the internet, re-victimize and re-traumatize the child victims each time their abuse is viewed. To learn more, please visit the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at www.missingkids.org.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Justice Department to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.justice.gov/psc.

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