

Man gets 10 years for child porn cravings; judge promises 94 more if he acts out again

Keith Epps

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A Spotsylvania County man was ordered Monday to serve 10 years in prison as the result of his obsession with child pornography.

John Thomas Pishock, 23, was sentenced in Spotsylvania Circuit Court to 104 years in prison with 94 years suspended after being convicted of 21 charges related to child pornography.

Judge Joseph Ellis warned Pishock that he will serve the entire 104-year sentence if he's ever caught looking at any kind of pornography again.

"One dirty picture, just one, and you'll be serving the remaining 94 years as well," Ellis said.

Virginia State Police arrested Pishock in April 2017 after tracking thousands of images and videos depicting child pornography to him. Some of the images had been sent to other pedophiles.

In her quest for "justice tempered with mercy," defense attorney Ghislaine Storr Burks put on extensive evidence Monday, including testimony from doctors and counselors.

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The defense evidence showed that Pishock has had a longstanding obsession with child pornography, stemming at least back to early high school when he was caught sharing images with other students. His doctors testified that Pishock has been compliant in treatment over the years, but never got the treatment he really needs.

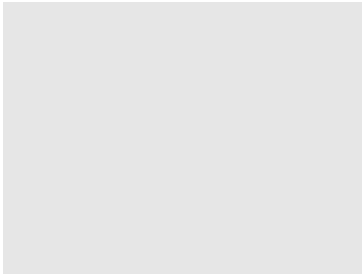
"He has fallen through the cracks," Dr. Evan Nelson said. "And he's going to fall through the cracks again [if sent to the Department of Corrections]."

Pishock said he is sorry for his actions and said he never had any desire to beat the charges. “All I really want is help,” he said.

Ellis said that as bad as viewing child pornography is, sharing it with others is “infinitely worse.”

Prosecutor Alice Sheridan said she knows of no cure for pedophiles like Pishock and asked that he get at least 20 years as a protection to the public.

“Prison doesn’t cure a lot, but what it can do is keep him off the internet,” Sheridan said.



Pishock

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