

Sex offender sentenced to 15 years

Nov 23, 2011

BY JONAS BEALS

Repeat sex offender Joel Drake was sentenced to 15 years in prison today for four counts of child pornography possession and one count of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Drake, 58, was convicted of sodomy in 2000 for molesting a Spotsylvania County boy in 1994 and 1995. He served 10 years for that crime and has been on the state sex offender registry since that conviction.

He will remain on that list, and he will serve more prison time.

According to prosecutor Travis Bird, Drake pleaded guilty to all of the recent charges. Bird had asked the judge for the maximum sentence of 21 years.

Bird said that Drake became a suspect when a local informant received child pornography from him. A local policeman, posing as a 17-year-old, then made contact with Drake. Bird said Drake solicited sex from the officer.

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“He’s the textbook definition of child predator,” Bird said.

Drake also faces likely probation violation charges in Spotsylvania. That case was postponed for a month.

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