

30-month sentence for nude pictures

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BY KEITH EPPS

A local photographer who took nude pictures of his clients without their consent was ordered Monday to serve 30 months behind bars.

Craig Stephen Faulkner, 59, of Fredericksburg was sentenced in Fredericksburg Circuit Court to a total of 24 years, with all but 30 months suspended.

Judge Gordon Willis' sentence far exceeded the recommended state sentencing guidelines, which called for a maximum active time of six months.

Faulkner had previously pleaded guilty to two felonies, possession of child pornography and filming a minor nude. Those charges involved a 16-year-old girl.

He was also convicted of 18 misdemeanor counts of unlawful filming and one count of having no business license.

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Police began investigating Faulkner in January of last year after a 23-year-old woman who works for Hooters went to Faulkner's home on William Street to have pictures taken for possible use in a Hooters calendar.

The woman's 20-year-old cousin went with her to the photo shoot, which featured the woman posing in a bikini.

While in a changing room, the women noticed a camera on a tripod with a light on, indicating that it was recording. The camera was covered with clothes.

After finishing the shoot, the women told city police about the hidden camera.

Faulkner told police he had thrown that camera into the river, but police seized tapes, hard drives, a computer and other items which contained considerable evidence against him.

Prosecutor Travis Bird said police went back several years and found more than 20 victims. He said Faulkner had been secretly filming women for years.

Defense attorney Mark Murphy called Faulkner's actions an "anomaly" and pointed out that he never posted the pictures to the Internet.

Bird said the "only anomaly was that he got caught. He did it over and over and over."

Faulkner, who apologized to his victims Monday and said he hoped they would forgive him, will have to register as a sex offender.

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