

Waukegan firefighter pleads not guilty to child pornography

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The Waukegan firefighter found to have more than 500 pornographic images of children on his personal laptop faces a lengthy prison sentence, a Lake County judge said Wednesday.

Nathan Clark, 36, of 1768 White Fence Lakes pleaded not guilty to Class 3 child pornography charges during an arraignment hearing.

Circuit Judge Victoria Rossetti told Clark if convicted of the charges he would spend up to five years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with a possible extendable sentence of 10 years.

Authorities were notified of Clark's activities when residents of his former home in Franklin, Tenn., discovered a box in the attic that contained several DVDs featuring child pornography.

Clark had sold the house to them before moving to Waukegan, court documents said.

The case was turned over to Nashville police and then eventually to Lake County investigators for follow up. On May 12, sheriff's deputies executed a search warrant at Clark's home and discovered the pornography on a laptop and desktop computers. He later turned himself in after a warrant was issued for his arrest. Clark has since been released from Lake County Jail after posting \$50,000 bond.

Clark is expected to appear in Lake County Circuit Court for trial Nov. 16. Fire Chief Dan Young said Clark, who had been with the department for less than two years, will be on paid leave until the legal matter has concluded.