

RICE
320 Third
Faribault,



COUNTY
Street N.W.
MN 55021

MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Release: January 6, 2020

Date to Remove from Website: July 6, 2020

Repeat Sex Offender Pleads Guilty to Child Pornography Case

Ross Matthew Wenner, 38, of rural Rice County entered guilty pleas in Rice County District Court on Friday, January 3, 2020 to three felony counts, Criminal Sexual Predatory Conduct, Dissemination of Pornographic Work by a Registered Predatory Offender, and Possession of a Pornographic Work by a Registered Predatory Offender. Seven additional felony counts were dismissed as part of the plea agreement. Because of his criminal history, Wenner is expected to be sentenced to up to 21 years in prison and be on supervised release, or parole, for the rest of his life. Sentencing is scheduled for May 19, 2020.

Wenner was previously convicted of Criminal Sexual Conduct, Kidnapping and Burglary offenses which required him to register as a predatory offender and made the current offenses more serious. Wenner was released from prison as a level three sex offender under Department of Corrections supervision in 2015. He is currently in the custody of the Department of Corrections for his violations of supervised release. Wenner was taken back into custody in 2018.

Rice County Attorney John Fossum prosecuted the case. “Wenner is a dangerous offender who requires a lengthy sentence. This resolution achieves that and will protect the community from Mr. Wenner for the foreseeable future, by keeping him in custody or on conditional release for the rest of his life.”

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Rice County Sheriff’s Office investigated the case. “The work of our justice partners in investigating this case led to this successful conclusion,” Fossum added.

CONTACTS:

John Fossum, Rice County Attorney, (507) 332-6103

Sara Folsted, Rice County Administrator (507) 332-6121