

# VICTORIA ADVOCATE

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## Local child predator gets 70 years for online solicitation, child porn

Dionicio Robles was caught in online sting by police

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**BY DON MUNSCH - VICTORIA ADVOCATE**

A child predator was sentenced to 70 years in prison after police snared the Victoria plant worker, by posing as underage girls in online chatrooms.

Dionicio Robles Jr., 54, who pleaded guilty in May to seven counts of possession of child pornography and three counts of online solicitation of a minor, was sentenced on Thursday by District Judge Stephen Williams.

Nearly 500 pornographic images were found on Robles' computer, many involved very young children, even babies and toddlers, Sgt. Lannie Hilboldt of the criminal investigations division of the AG's office.

Robles, father of three children and grandfather of two grandchildren, received 10 years for each count of child pornography possession and 20 years for each count of online solicitation. This is the maximum sentence for child sex crimes. The sentences will be served at the same time, said Stephen Tyler, criminal district attorney for Victoria County.

Robles was arrested in March 2006 by an officer with the state attorney general's division of cyber crimes unit following a four-month investigation.

Angela Goodwin, assistant attorney general and lead prosecutor on the case, said Robles would have to serve at least 25 percent of the sentence before he is first eligible for parole.

"And as you probably picked up from this legislative session, the legislature is getting tougher on these type of offenses, so he would be extraordinarily lucky to make (parole) at the 25-year mark," Tyler said at his office after the sentencing.

Tyler said he wasn't sure whether this was the first online solicitation case to be tried in Victoria County, but it was probably the first since new law was passed. He said this case sets a "threshold standard" for the community.

"I think we telegraphed to all involved how we this community feels about these types of crimes," he said.

Assistant district attorney Brian Hrach assisted in the case.

Tali Villafranca of Victoria represented Robles.

According to evidence presented in the punishment hearing, Robles talked to undercover officers who were posing as underage girls on Internet chat rooms.

Robles testified he was ashamed, embarrassed and remorseful for his actions. He asked for

probation as his punishment. He also said he was getting counseling and psychiatric treatment and was taking medication.

But Goodwin told the judge that the evidence merited something more severe than probation. In two of the counts of online solicitation, Robles had chatted online with someone he thought was under 14 and wanted to meet with her to engage in sex acts. These conversations occurred from December 2005 through March 2006.

Robles tried to get the girls to meet with him, but he never went through meeting them, Tyler said.

Hilboldt also discussed information, such as credit card numbers used to access Web sites and links to underage sex Web sites, that led authorities to Robles, who talked with law enforcement officers on a Yahoo chat room.

The AG's office helped train local law enforcement officers and prosecutors in cases involving online solicitation and Internet sex crimes, Tyler said.

"We were able to do this because of a combined effort: the AG's office, Victoria Police Department, Houston Police Department and the DA's office," he said. "We can always get more done when we work together as a team. I think this case is an example of that. It's also an example of what our community standards, behaviors and mores (are)."

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