

**Testimony of Daryk Rowland
To The COPA Committee
8/4/00**

Good afternoon. My name is Daryk Rowland. I am a detective with the Huntington Beach Police Department, assigned to the special Investigations Unit for the past four years and have been a police officer for over 16 years.

During the past four years of working in Special Investigations unit, I have also been assigned to work with the Southern California SAFE Team. The SAFE Team is a federal task force located in Los Angeles, California, with cooperation of local and federal government agencies.

During my four years working with the Special Investigations Unit, I have been assigned to work on child pornography and child exploitation cases. Since September of 1995, while monitoring this type of activity, I have noticed, firsthand, the dangers of the internet and how it pertains to children. I have observed children being sexually exploited, lured from the internet and sexually molested. I have observed children being given unsolicited photographs of sexually explicit matter, and I have also observed the element of the Internet where people meet and trade child pornography. Besides trading child pornography, these individuals seek and look for new images and new victims on the Internet. I also observed many individuals continually exploiting children by trading and exchanging images of children that have been sexually molested and then sending the images throughout the internet.

The problem, and great concern of law enforcement, is that before the Internet, law enforcement was able to protect children and the community, in the parks, libraries, shopping malls, and streets. Now, with the Internet, we have no law enforcement on the super-highway. Therefore, our children are going out on the Internet unsupervised and without a guardian. Without the supervision and law enforcement there with them, children have been easy targets for predators who want to entice and lure these children away to have sexual contacts and molest them. This is not just a local law enforcement problem, but a problem that effects us on a worldwide basis. The cooperation among local, federal, and international government agencies is of the utmost importance in regards to this type of criminal activity.

As in the past history, law enforcement used to have their own jurisdictions where the criminals were within their own community or close by, and where these persons would be easily apprehended. Now, with the Internet, these predators, who are targeting our children, are located throughout the world. Local law enforcement must look for additional resources to assist in this type of investigation.

Within the City of Huntington Beach, in Southern California, we find the problems of both child pornography being distributed and exchanged, as well as children being lured and molested off the internet. I can testify that most recently, a male individual had been convicted to 12 years in state prison for using the Internet to pose as a female and had young boys go to his residence where he would entice them and sexually molest them. This type of criminal activity is not just within the jurisdiction of Huntington Beach, but in jurisdictions throughout the United States.

I have had the privilege of working with the California Department of Justice Advanced Training center in putting together and instructing courses on investigation of Internet crimes. I have taught throughout the State of California and have trained many agencies.

While training these officers, it is quite obvious that law enforcement is behind and we are struggling to keep up with the criminal activity that is occurring. The resources are extremely limited and law enforcement does not have the ability to keep up at its present pace. Besides being behind, law enforcement is struggling with the inadequacy of the Internet Service providers and the legal requirements for obtaining information. The Internet service providers have no requirement and are not being regulated in regards to persons logging onto the Internet. All Internet Service providers vary on how long the data is retained. There are no rules or regulations that require them to abide to this type of record keeping.

As a law enforcement officer speaking before you, I appreciate you inviting me here and I am open to any questions that you might have in regards to law enforcement's response, training, or future problems that we might see concerning this matter.

Thank you very much!

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