MOTHER ARRESTED FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY USING HER CHILDREN

POKÉMON PARTNER ALERTS MCSO TO VIDEOS

Detectives from the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office Cyber Crimes unit arrested a New River woman for recording sex acts with her children and selling the videos to a man on the internet. 28-year-old Keri Ann Harwood was taken into custody at her home. She faces multiple felony counts of sexual exploitation and molestation of a child. Videos show Ms. Harwood involved in sex acts with her children ages six and three.

“Horrible acts of child abuse like this can be stopped with the help of alert members of our community,” said Sheriff Paul Penzone. “If you see something unusual, contact authorities so that we can end this exploitation.”

MCSO Deputies were made aware of this crime by an acquaintance of Ms. Harwood who was playing Pokémon Go with her. Due to poor internet connectivity, Ms. Harwood had shared her email account with this acquaintance. He notified MCSO after inadvertently discovering two videos and PayPal transactions to an email address. On Sunday, August 13, the Cyber Crimes unit served a search warrant at Ms. Harwood’s New River home, confiscating video files and arresting her.

Ms. Harwood told detectives she had produced the videos for this man she met through a Tumblr account. The two engaged in voyeurism for money via Snapchat. Ms. Harwood claimed the man offered to pay her hundreds of dollars if she would live stream sex acts with children via Snapchat. Ms. Harwood said that she desperately needed the money and did not want to disappoint this man.
Following her arrest Ms. Harwood was booked into the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Jail and her children were taken to Child Help for forensic interviews. Detectives believe there are at least five videos of the crimes. MCSO is pursuing warrants to arrest the man she was sending the videos to.

“Our mobile, hyper-connected world makes it easier for predators to exploit families who do not have the knowledge needed to protect loved ones,” warned Sheriff Penzone. “Adults with children in the home need to stay current with cyber trends and regularly check internet usage not just in the household but on phones for any unusual or concerning activity.”