

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Man Convicted of Child Pornography and Rape Charges

Dante James could face up to 40 years after being convicted of severe charges involving a minor and the production of child pornography

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Mugshot of Dante James. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

ST. CROIX — United States Attorney Delia L. Smith announced today that a federal jury convicted Dante James, 28, of St. Croix, on production of child pornography and second-degree rape charges. James awaits sentencing on a date to be set by District Judge Wilma Lewis.

For his conviction, James faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years and a maximum of 30 years incarceration on the federal production of child pornography charge, and a maximum of 10 years incarceration on the local second-degree rape charge.

“Sexual abuse impacts our entire community and exposes its victims to a lifetime of trauma. It is particularly heinous when sexual predators exploit our young children. We remain committed to fully seeking justice for victims of child exploitation and sexual abuse by prosecuting sex offenders of the law in hopes of creating a safe community for our children”, said Attorney Smith.

“The defendant’s sexual abuse was also an abuse of trust”, said Homeland Security Investigations Assistant Special Agent in Charge Eugene Thomas. “As the victim’s former steel pan instructor, James abused her trust to be a role model and a leader. HSI will continue to work with the Virgin Islands Police Department to ensure that predators who prey on minors in our community are convicted of their crimes.”

According to evidence presented at trial, between January 1, 2021, and August 23, 2022, James engaged in sexual intercourse and other sexually explicit conduct with a 16-year-old minor. James produced a video recording of the sexual acts with the minor with the use of devices shipped in interstate and foreign commerce. The victim only learned of the recording after it was posted on social media, and immediately reported the incident to the Virgin Islands Police Department and provided them with a copy of the video.

This case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations and the Virgin Islands Police Department and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Rhonda WilliamsHenry and Everard Potter. It was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse, launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice.

Led by U.S. Attorneys’ Offices and CEOS, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, visit <http://www.justice.gov/psc>.