

United States District Court  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE (NASHVILLE DIVISION)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

LOUIS J. LEVINE

Case Number: 09-4017 JSB

I, the undersigned complainant being duly sworn state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Between on or about January 1, 2009 and on or about March 31, 2009, in Davidson County, in the Middle District of Tennessee defendant(s) did,

unlawfully employ, use, persuade, induce, entice, or coerce any minor to engage in, or have a minor assist any other person to engage in, or transport any minor in interstate or foreign commerce, with the intent that such minor engage in, any sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct, if that person knows or has reason to know that such visual depiction will be transported in interstate or foreign commerce or mailed, if that visual depiction was produced using materials that have been mailed, shipped, or transported in interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, or if such visual depiction has actually been transported in interstate or foreign commerce or mailed.

in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section(s) 2251(a). I further state that I am a(n) Task Force Officer with the FBI and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

See Attached Affidavit

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof:

Yes  No

Keith Sutherland  
Signature of Complainant  
Keith Sutherland  
Task Force Officer, FBI

Sworn to me and subscribed in my presence,

April 6, 2009  
Date

at Nashville, Tennessee  
City and State

John S. Bryant, United States Magistrate Judge  
Name & Title of Judicial Officer

John S. Bryant  
Signature of Judicial Officer

**AFFIDAVIT OF KEITH SUTHERLAND**

I, Keith Sutherland, being first duly sworn on oath, states as follows:

1. I am a detective with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department and have been so for over 16 years. I am presently assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigations Violent Crime Task Force and have been so employed for approximately 3 years.
2. This affidavit is submitted in support of a Criminal Complaint for the arrest of **LOUIS J. LEVINE**, for the following offense: in or about March of 2009, in the Middle District of Tennessee, **LOUIS J. LEVINE** did unlawfully produce a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct using materials that had been mailed, shipped, or transported in interstate or foreign commerce by any means, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2251(a).
3. The following information contained in this affidavit is based on my training and experience, my personal participation in this investigation and information provided to me by other law enforcement officials. Unless otherwise indicated, where I have referred to written or oral statements, I have summarized them in substance and in part, rather than verbatim. Not all of the facts of the investigation known to me are contained herein, only those necessary to establish probable cause for the arrest of **LOUIS J. LEVINE**.
4. I was informed by Metropolitan Nashville Police Detective Jeff Wisner about an investigation involving **LOUIS J. LEVINE** that began on or about March 25, 2009, when Det. Wisner received a call from a concerned parent of a minor teenage boy (hereinafter "Minor Male #1"). The parent expressed concern about the activities of her child and other minor teenagers who were spending time with **LEVINE** at his home in the Middle District of

Tennessee. Specifically, the parent expressed concern that **LEVINE** was allowing minor teenagers, including “Minor Male #1” to drink alcohol and smoke marijuana, which **LEVINE** would purchase for them, and to access the house and use the bedrooms for sex.

The parent provided the names and contact information for several of the families whose children had or currently were spending time at **LEVINE**’s home engaging in some or all of these activities. Finally, the concerned parent referred Det. Wisner to **LEVINE**’s MySpace page.

5. Det. Wisner accessed **LEVINE**’s MySpace page at [www.myspace.com/louislevine](http://www.myspace.com/louislevine) on March 25, 2009, and was alarmed by the content of that page.
6. On March 30, 2009, Det. Wisner spoke with a female minor (hereinafter “Female Minor #1”) about her knowledge of the situation. Female Minor #1 provided the following information:
  - a. Within the last year, she and other minor teenagers had congregated at the home of **LOUIS LEVINE**, which is located on Alton Road in Nashville, Tennessee.
  - b. She stated that there was an outbuilding behind the home, which **LOUIS LEVINE** and minor teenagers called “Little House.”
  - c. She witnessed minor teenagers drinking alcohol and taking illegal drugs, and had knowledge of sexual activity taking place in “Little House.”
  - d. In the main house, where **LEVINE** lived, there was a padlock on **LEVINE**’s bedroom door.
  - e. Another room in the main house was known as the “Isolation Chamber,” which contained a waterbed with a box over it.
7. On Tuesday, March 31, 2009, Det. Wisner talked with two brothers, one of whom was a minor

and the other who had recently turned eighteen. These two males stated as follows:

- a. Both males had been to **LEVINE**'s residence on multiple occasions, where they and their friends would use an outbuilding known as "Little House" to drink alcohol and smoke marijuana.
  - b. The older brother stated that when he was a minor, **LEVINE** has taken him into the main home where **LEVINE** showed him pornography that appeared to be homemade and depicted a video of a male and female. He believes the male depicted in the video was a sixteen year old acquaintance who frequents **LEVINE**'s home. He stated that he recognized the background as being in **LEVINE**'s daughter's bedroom, which is next to **LEVINE**'s bedroom.
  - c. The older brother also described the bedroom where **LEVINE**'s daughter would stay when she visited. When the daughter was not at the home, **LEVINE** would set up the bedroom with mirrors and a box that contained pornography, condoms, lubricants, and chocolate, among other things. Minor teenagers would use the room to engage in sexual intercourse, sometimes at the encouragement of **LEVINE**.
  - d. The younger brother, who is still a minor, described the property, rooms, and "Little House" similarly to the eighteen year old.
8. On March 31, 2009, Det. Wisner sought and received a search warrant from General Sessions Judge William Higgins, which warrant allowed the search of **LEVINE**'s home and outbuildings on Alton Road in Nashville, Tennessee. Det. Wisner executed the search warrant on that date and found the following evidence:
- a. Inside the home, the law enforcement officers found what others had described as the

“Isolation Room.” That room contained a waterbed with a wooden box that completely surrounded the waterbed, <sup>with fans</sup> which an improvised ventilation system.

- b. In LEVINE’s bedroom, which was padlocked, the law enforcement officers found an extensive home network that included computer(s), four monitors, a significant number of cables running to other locations in the home including the “Isolation Room,” and activated VHS and DVD players. Additionally, the officers found approximately 400 VHS tapes and DVDs that appeared to be homemade (i.e. not commercial products) with hand writing on them. One of the monitors was in the bedroom closet along with a DVD and VHS players.
  - c. In another bedroom was a desktop computer.
9. Det. Wisner also detective spoke with LEVINE during the search. LEVINE made the following statements:
- a. He did know a group of boys who lived in Franklin and whom he would pick up and bring to his home in Nashville.
  - b. This group included “Minor Male #3” mentioned above, who he knows to be sixteen years of age.
10. On April 1, 2009, Det. Wisner spoke with an adult male (hereinafter “Adult Male #1”) who provided the following information:
- a. Between 1977 and 1982, when “Adult Male #1” was a minor teenager, he and others spent time at the home of LEVINE located on Alton Road in Nashville, Tennessee.
  - b. He stated that there was an outbuilding behind the home, which was known as “Little House.” Behind that was a shed with a “peep hole” into “Little House.”

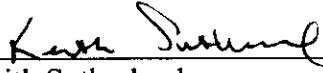
- c. He stated that **LEVINE** would provide pornography movies for the boys to watch in “Little House.” **LEVINE** showed the minors how to masturbate and sometimes masturbated with them. **LEVINE** also allowed the minors to drink and take drugs, sometimes providing these items to the teenagers.
  - d. He stated that **LEVINE** allowed him to engage in sexual intercourse with his girlfriend in “Little House” when he was a minor. On at least one of those occasions, sometime between 1977 and 1982, **LEVINE** audio taped the sexual encounter and gave a copy of the tape to him.
  - e. He stated that in the main house, where **LEVINE** lived, was an the “Isolation Room,” which contained a waterbed with a cover over the bed.
  - f. He provided information about other boys who had spent time at **LEVINE**’s home. He believed that **LEVINE** had engaged in sexual activity with at least two of these individuals, when the individuals were minors.
11. On April 1, 2009 and April 2, 2009, Det. Wiser spoke directly with “Minor Male #3,” a sixteen year old boy who lives and attends high school in the Middle Tennessee area. “Minor Male #3” provided the following information:
- a. He has known **LEVINE** for several years. After first meeting **LEVINE**, “Minor Male #3” would spend time at **LEVINE**’s home smoking marijuana and watching pornographic movies. Later, “Minor Male #3” began taking girls to **LEVINE**’s home, and he would have sexual intercourse with the girls. He suspected that **LEVINE** was videotaping the sexual encounters, although he had never seen any such videos.

- b. On one occasion in the summer of 2007 when “Minor Male #3” was at **LEVINE**’s home, “Minor Male #3” was under the influence of drugs and fell asleep on **LEVINE**’s bed. When “Minor Male #3” woke up, his pants were down and **LEVINE** had his hand on the penis of “Minor Male #3.”
  - c. “Minor Male #3” also reported that in March of 2009, **LEVINE** picked up a minor male (hereinafter “Minor Male #4”) from the home of “Minor Male #4,” which was approximately a thirty minute drive from **LEVINE**’s home. **LEVINE** gave “Minor Male #4” “rolls,” otherwise known as ecstasy. By the time **LEVINE** and “Minor Male #4” arrived at **LEVINE**’s home, “Minor Male #4” was “messed up,” according to “Minor Male #3.”
12. On April 2, 2009, Det. Wisner interviewed “Minor Male #4” who stated as follows:
- a. Minor Male #4 met **LEVINE** in November of 2008.
  - b. Minor Male #4 had been to **LEVINE**’s home approximately ten times.
  - c. Approximately one month ago, **LEVINE** picked up “Minor Male #4” and gave him a red pill with a little “s” on it, which “Minor Male #4” believed to be ecstasy. The pill made him very sick.
  - d. On previous occasions, **LEVINE** had given “Minor Male #4” marijuana to smoke and pornographic videos which **LEVINE** told him he could watch in the bathroom or the daughter’s bedroom.
13. On that same day, Det. Wisner also spoke with another adult male (hereinafter “Adult Male #2”) who currently lives out of state but who was a teenager in the mid 1980’s, provided the following information:

- a. "Adult Male #2" stated that when he was a minor teenager, **LEVINE** would supply drugs and pornography to minor teenage boys who congregated in "Little House."  
"Adult Male #2" stated that there was inappropriate sexual contact between "Adult Male #2" **LEVINE** and other minor teenage boys.
  - b. "Adult Male #2" described the conduct at **LEVINE**'s home approximately twenty-five years ago similarly to others who had described the events recently.
14. On April 3, 2009, Det. Wiser sought a second state search warrant to seize and search another computer believed to be in **LEVINE**'s possession. Det. Wiser executed the search warrant that day at **LEVINE**'s home. While there, Det. Wiser gave **LEVINE** his Miranda rights, and **LEVINE** voluntarily made the following statements:
- a. **LEVINE** admitted that he had surreptitiously videotaped "Minor Male #3" with a hidden camera when "Minor Male #3" was in the bathroom in **LEVINE**'s home masturbating. **LEVINE** stated that the videotape would be in the camcorder that had been seized earlier in the week. **LEVINE** stated that he is "fascinated" with "Minor Male #3."
  - b. **LEVINE** also admitted that he had gotten in bed with "Minor Male #3," just as "Minor Male #3" had described two days earlier.
  - c. During the interview, **LEVINE** made an off hand comment to the effect of "society looks at this differently than I do."
15. On April 3, 2009, Det. Wiser spoke with another adult male (hereinafter "Adult Male #3") who currently lives out of state but who was a teenager in the early 1980's. "Adult Male #3" provided the following information:

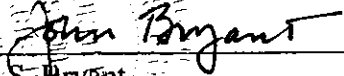
- a. "Adult Male #3" stated that when he was a minor teenager, LEVINE had been sexually inappropriate with ""Adult Male #3"" on numerous occasions.
  - b. "Adult Male #3" described the conduct at LEVINE's home similarly to the other adults and minors. The description of the activity and setup of home and property apparently are the same as approximately thirty years ago.
16. On April 6, 2009, Det. Wisner examined a Maxwell hi8 millimeter tape that was located in the Canon ES50 camcorder, that appeared to have been recorded sometime recently, probably within the last three months, given the fact that the tape was still in the camcorder. I also have observed the some of the contents of that tape. There are three different scenes on the tape:
- a. A teenage boy, whose face is clear on the videotape, is in the bathroom located in LEVINE's home. The boy is masturbating. Det. Wisner has identified this boy as sixteen year old "Minor Male #3." I also observed this portion of the video.
  - b. In another portion of the video is a male and female engaging in sexual intercourse in "Little House" on LEVINE's property. Det. Wisner believes that the male in the video is another minor teenager whom Det. Wisner has interviewed during the course of his investigation.
  - c. A third scene takes place in a bedroom of the main house, in which two individuals are engaged in sexual intercourse.

17. I have confirmed that the Canon ES50 camcorder and Maxwell hi8 millimeter tape were manufactured in Japan, which necessarily means that the items used to produce the above described child pornography has traveled in interstate or foreign commerce.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Sutherland  
Task Force Officer  
Federal Bureau of Investigations

Subscribed and Sworn to

before me this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

  
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John S. Bryant  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Middle District of Tennessee