



## Ceres Department of Public Safety

Art de Werk, Chief/Acting City Manager/Director of Public Safety



### Chief Art de Werk

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### Child Exploitation

Over the past eight months, the Ceres Police Department aggressively conducted investigations of crimes related to Child Exploitation, including the downloading of child pornography from the Internet and the possession of these images and movie files. These investigations come as result of our investigators participation in the Sacramento High Tech Task Force.

During these investigations, Ceres Police have served more than twenty search warrants on Internet service providers as well as individual residences in Stanislaus County. During these investigations, computers and other digital media were seized and examined by digital forensic experts for evidence related to the possession of child pornography.

Numerous arrests for violation of California Penal Code section 311.11 PC, Possession of Child Pornography have occurred. There has also been one deportation of an individual related to one of these investigations. We referred one additional investigation to a task force in the State of Washington. We determined the suspect was operating from the State of Washington. We have closed some cases, due to a lack of evidence to proceed. Arrests have not resulted in all cases, since they are pending review by the respective federal or state prosecutors. The need to determine if the case is prosecuted at the Federal or State level must be settled first.

Due to the heinous nature of the Exploitation of Children crimes, Ceres Police Department will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute these crimes.

Detectives are encouraging anyone with any information in reference to these types of cases to contact the Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers at:

**Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers.**

**Phone number: 1-866-60-CRIME**

**Text Tips: "274637" TIP704 in the wording**

**Website: [www.modestopolice.com/crimestoppers](http://www.modestopolice.com/crimestoppers)**

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