



## OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Bordentown Man Pleads Guilty to Luring**

A Bordentown man arrested in September 2018 for attempting to lure a 14-year-old boy he met online to a local park for a sexual encounter pleaded guilty on last week, Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported. The 14-year-old child was actually an undercover detective with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

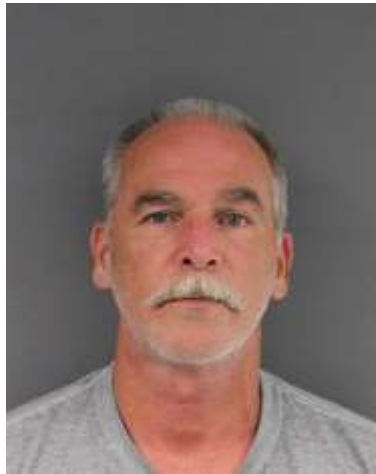
Joseph Coleman, 55, pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree luring before Mercer County Superior Court Judge Thomas M. Brown on February 1. Under the terms of the plea agreement, the state will recommend that Coleman be sentenced to seven years in state prison, including three years of parole ineligibility. He will be required to register as a sex offender under Megan's Law and will be subject to parole supervision for life.

Assistant Prosecutor Timothy Trainor represented the state. Coleman is scheduled to be sentenced on March 22.

Coleman was arrested on September 5, 2018, by members of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office after arriving at a park to meet a 14-year-old-boy who was actually an undercover detective. Since July 2018, detectives with the MCPO had been investigating individuals trying to exploit children online. A detective working in an undercover capacity, posing as a 14-year-old boy, responded to an online ad and triggered more than 100 email exchanges with Coleman. The email conversations included graphic sexual discussion and multiple attempts by Coleman to arrange a meeting.

Prosecutor Onofri urged anyone with information about suspected improper contact by unknown persons communicating with children via the internet or possible exploitation or sexual abuse of children to please contact his Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit at 609-989-6568 or the New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force tipline at 888-648-6007.

**###**



**Joseph Coleman**