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Child porn suspect owned day-care

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CRESCENT SPRINGS - A Lakeside Park man who was charged with advertising and possessing child pornography on May 14, until late last year was the owner of a day-care center in Crescent Springs.

Fred "Bill" Aureden, 61, was released from the Boone County jail Friday on his own recognizance.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Gregory Wehrman set many restrictions on Aureden's release. The most serious is electric monitoring of his whereabouts and a curfew, according to court records. Aureden's contact with children, including his own grandchildren, is restricted along with his access to computers.

Aureden was listed as owner of Crescent Springs Daycare LLC on the corporation's 2007 annual report filed with the Kentucky Secretary of State. His name was dropped from the corporation's 2008 annual report. It lists his wife, Catherine Aureden, as the only officer or manager of the corporation has yet to file an annual report for this year.

Catherine Aureden is listed as the facility director with Kentucky's Cabinet of Health and Family Services. Fred Aureden has never been registered with the state as a director, according to a cabinet spokeswoman.

The day care is licensed to care for 99 children.

The cabinet placed sanctions against the day care after being informed of the criminal investigation. They prevent Fred Aureden from being on the premise during business hours or having any contact with the children enrolled there.

The cabinet's Office of Inspector General also launched its own investigation. The details of that investigation have not been disclosed because it is still active, a spokeswoman said.

Aureden's attorney, Shannon Sexton, said his client never worked in the day-care center. He is a retired lineman from what is now Duke Energy, Sexton said.

"There are no factual allegations related to the day care whatsoever," Sexton said. "There is no indication ... that there was any direct involvement with Mr. Aureden and any child. It appears at this early state ... that the allegations consist primarily of images that were collected allegedly by Mr. Aureden."

Sexton said his client has a "tremendous amount of family support" as he fights the criminal charges.

"I would just reiterate that there is no allegation the day care is involved in any way," Sexton said.

Aureden was indicted May 14 by a federal grand jury on one count of possession of child pornography and two counts of advertising child pornography. If convicted, he faces a maximum prison sentence of 20 years and fines of up to \$250,000 on each count.

Aureden had photos and videos of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct on his computers in November and December, according to the indictment.

No one at the day-care center would comment.
