

Former Massachusetts youth football coach Derek Sheehan, accused of filming himself rape several children, agrees to plead guilty to charges of sexual abuse

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A former Norwell youth football coach has agreed to plead guilty to sexual abuse charges after allegedly filming himself raping several minors while they slept in his home, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

Derek Sheehan, 51, agreed to plead guilty to three counts of sexual exploitation of children. He was arrested in 2018 after a Massachusetts State Police and Norwell Police investigation into allegations that he had sexually assaulted a child under the age of 14.

U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns deferred acceptance of the plea until sentencing, which has not yet been scheduled by the court.

In October 2018, Sheehan was charged by criminal complaint and indicted by a federal grand jury.

Police executed a search warrant at Sheehan's home on August 17, 2018, finding electronic devices containing child pornography, including videos of Sheehan allegedly sexually abusing an 11-year-old child, federal prosecutors said previously.

"Video evidence later recovered from the devices showed that Sheehan, a Norwell youth football coach at the time, had videotaped himself sexually abusing three minors while they were 11 and 12 years old while they slept in his home between March 2017 and July 2018," prosecutors said.

The criminal complaint said there were "hours of footage" on one of Sheehan's hard drives depicting the alleged assaults on March 16, 2017, March 19, 2017 and April 8, 2018.

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