



Blogs

Dr. Bernard Z. Albina, Kiddy-Porn Loving, Alleged Child Rapist Orthopedic Surgeon, Gets Ten Years in Federal Prison

By [John Nova Lomax](#) Wed., Nov. 28 2012 at 7:00 AM

A Houston orthopedic surgeon a veteran cop called the most obsessed child molester he'd ever seen has been sentenced to ten years in federal prison after he was found guilty of possessing ten videos and 326 images of child pornography.

Bernard Z. Albina was arrested in July of 2009 and charged not only with having the kiddy porn, but also molesting several other children, one of them continuously, between 2003 and 2009.

All of the boys were prepubescent; several were the relatives of patients Albina treated at St. Joseph's Hospital, and one was four years old when the assaults allegedly began.

When the police raided the \$1 million Memorial-area home Albina shared with his wife in 2009, they reportedly also found binders and notebooks stuffed with clipped-out accounts of brutal rapes, kidnappings and grisly murders, all of children.

Albina reportedly cloaked the monster within behind the facade of a sweet, courtly grandfather type who [donated generously to numerous charitable causes](#). The surgeon's largesse did not end there; he reportedly plied the boys and their families with gifts and cash, and even bought houses for some to live in rent-free.

Eric Devlin, a Harris County assistant DA who prosecuted Albina, claimed that the doctor shelled out \$250,000 in bribes and hush money, and called Albina one of the most "patient" predators he'd ever come across.

After his arrest in July of 2009, Albina was free on bond until January of 2012. Tagged with a GPS device (according to court records), Albina attended a Catholic retreat, visited his seaside condo in Galveston and

spent some time in a Conroe lake house while attorney Dick DeGuerin got the cases reset at least 16 times.

They never did, at least not in the Harris County Court of David Mendoza, in front of whom Albina had been scheduled to appear. DeGuerin claimed he needed to examine more of the two minivans full of evidence seized in the multi-agency raids on Albina's home and office.

The feds took over the cases in January. Deeming him both a danger to the community and a flight risk (Albina is wealthy, has ties to Lebanon and partially obtained his medical training in Jerusalem), Judge Frances Stacy ordered Albina held without bond until his day in judge Lee Rosenthal's court.

Which came yesterday. Albina pleaded guilty and accepted a deal that will keep him behind bars for ten years, after which he will spend five more years on supervised release. (By the time all of that is done, he will be 88 years old.)

"He deserves every minute of that and more," Devlin tells Hair Balls. "I am not sure you can give enough time to a man who abused his status as a doctor to prey on children."

Given that Albina recently had heart surgery, some may see the ten years as a life sentence, but Devlin is not so sure. He says that oddly enough, some people tend to live longer in, prison than they would normally, and adds that he once prosecuted a 92-year-old man who had thousands of images of child pornography.

As of now, it is not known if the feds intend to pursue the sexual assault and continuing sexual abuse of a child charges county authorities had lodged against Albina. "Ten years is great, but whatever happens next, I can't say," says Devlin.