

Summary: Former BIE Principal Sentenced for Possession of Child Pornography

Report Date: March 10, 2026

Report Number: 24-0101

The OIG investigated allegations that Jonathan Herring, the former Principal of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Kayenta Boarding School (KBS), in Kayenta, Arizona, viewed and possessed images suspected of being child sexual abuse material (also known as child pornography) while on duty at KBS. The allegations were made after the suspected material was observed on Herring's computer during the school day.

We substantiated the allegations. Herring admitted to us that he downloaded and possessed child pornography prior to joining BIE, while employed by BIE, and after being terminated by BIE.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona prosecuted this case. On July 28, 2025, Herring pleaded guilty to violating 18 U.S.C. § 2252 (a)(4)(B) and 2252(b)(2) - Possession of child pornography. On December 17, 2025, Herring was sentenced to 18 months of prison and 15 years of supervised release and was required to register as a sex offender. As a special condition of his supervised release, among other restrictions, Herring is prohibited from engaging in any occupation, business, volunteer activity, or profession where it is reasonably foreseeable that he will be alone with children under the age of 18 without the approval of his probation officer.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the Director of the BIE as well as the relevant licensing agencies for Arizona, Nevada and Colorado.

