



# THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

United States Attorney's Office  
Eastern District of Washington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2025

[EDWA.gov](https://edwa.gov) | [@USAO\\_EDWA](https://twitter.com/USAO_EDWA)

Contact: PAO

Public Affairs Officer

[USAWAE.Media@usdoj.gov](mailto:USAWAE.Media@usdoj.gov)

## **Nespelem Man Sentenced to 216 Months in Federal Prison for Sex Crimes Involving Children on the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation**

Spokane, Washington – United States District Judge Mary K. Dimke sentenced Lance Scott Michel, age 31, of Nespelem, Washington, to 216 months in federal prison after Michel pleaded guilty to Sexual Abuse of a Minor in Indian Country and Sexual Abuse in Indian Country. Judge Dimke also ordered that, following his sentence, Michel be placed on a lifetime term of supervised release.

According to court documents, in early 2023, Michel began communicating with various minor females on the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation over social media. Michel, a then twenty-nine-year-old, provided the minor females with items such as vaping products and cartridges. After engaging in this grooming behavior, Michel sexually abused two 15 year old victims. District Court Judge Dimke noted the aggravated nature of Defendant's crimes and applied a sentencing enhancement due to Michel's forcible conduct against both minor victims.

"Mr. Michel targeted minors from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation with the explicit intent to sexually abuse them. Protecting children and holding accountable those who seek to exploit and harm them are top priorities of my office," said United States Attorney S. Peter Serrano. "We will continue to seek out and prosecute these heinous crimes thanks to our dedicated team and our FBI and tribal partners."

"Through social media, Mr. Michel gained the trust of minors on the Colville Reservation, trust he later took advantage of in the most unthinkable way," said W. Mike Herrington, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Seattle field office. "There is no question that his heinous actions were entirely deserving of today's sentence. Protecting the lives and wellbeing of our nation's children from those who seek to prey on them is, and remains, a top priority for the FBI and our partners."

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Colville Tribal Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Michael J. Ellis, Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington.

2:24-cr-00028-MKD