



U.S. Department of Justice

Kenneth J. Gonzales

United States Attorney

District of New Mexico

201 3rd Street NW

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Norman Cairns, Assistant U.S. Attorney, PAO , 505-224-1521

CONTACTS: *Elizabeth M. Martinez, Assistant U.S. Attorney, 505-224-1469*
Charlyn Rees, Assistant U. S. Attorney/Project Safe Childhood Coordinator
505-224-1426

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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KENTUCKY MAN CHARGED IN FEDERAL COURT
WITH CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OFFENSE

Earlier today, **Craig Andrew Armstrong**, 24, of Louisville, Kentucky, appeared before Chief United States Magistrate Judge Richard L. Puglisi on a criminal complaint charging him with traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a person under 18 years of age. If convicted of this offense, Armstrong faces up to 30 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and up to a lifetime of supervised release.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said officers of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested Armstrong, who was in the company of a 12-year old girl, in a local motel on September 27, 2010. According to the criminal complaint, APD officers went to the motel after the child's mother reported receiving an anonymous call alerting her that the child was in the motel. During a safe house interview, the child said that she met Armstrong in August

2010 through an Internet website and thereafter Armstrong communicated with her by cellphone and texting. The child said she received a text message from Armstrong on September 26, 2010 notifying her that Armstrong was in Albuquerque. She reported that Armstrong took her to the motel where he performed sexual acts on her. The criminal complaint alleges that Armstrong admitted to meeting the child through an Internet website and traveling from Louisville, KY to Albuquerque to have a sexual relationship with the child. It also alleges that Armstrong admitted to performing various sex acts on the child multiple times over a day and a half time frame.

The case was investigated by APD, the FBI and the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office in Bernalillo County and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Charlyn Rees and was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. Project Safe Childhood is a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

A criminal complaint is only an accusation. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.