



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DENTAL TECHNICIAN PLEADS GUILTY TO 8 COUNTS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
OF CHILDREN INVOLVING THE INTERNET**

Jackson, Miss – Robert Morris, 45, of Crystal Springs, pled guilty in federal court today to four counts of producing child pornography, one count of distributing child pornography, one count of receiving child pornography, and two counts of possession of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) Special Agent in Charge Raymond R. Parmer, Jr. announced. All eight counts involved visual images of minor children engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

On January 15, 2009, ICE, part of the Department of Homeland Security, executed a federal search warrant for child pornography at Morris' residence. A forensic preview of Morris' computer conducted by an ICE computer forensic specialist found numerous images of child pornography. During the execution of the search warrant, Morris admitted to ICE agents that he had child pornography on his computers, that he had chatted with others online about having sex with children, and that he had knowingly received and traded pornographic images of children. A subsequent forensic review of Morris' computer by the High Tech Investigative Unit of the Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section revealed that Morris had molested and photographed young teenage girls at his home on numerous occasions.

"All children have an absolute right to grow up free from the fear of sexual exploitation," said Raymond R. Parmer Jr., Special Agent-in-Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in New Orleans. "ICE relentlessly pursues predators who sexually abuse children, whether that abuse is physical in nature or if it's accomplished by exploiting their images. ICE will not tolerate such despicable crimes. Our agents will continue to police cyberspace and target those who travel abroad to exploit one of the most vulnerable segments of our society -- our children."

This case demonstrates the mission of Project Safe Childhood, a Department of Justice nationwide initiative launched in May 2006, to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Through Project Safe Childhood, federal, state and local law enforcement officials have formed partnerships to apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

The case was investigated by the local ICE agents of the Department of Homeland Security and the Crystal Spring Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Glenda R. Haynes and DOJ Trial Attorney Andrew McCormack with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department of Justice prosecuted the case.

Robert Morris will be sentenced on August 18, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. and faces a maximum penalty of 240 years in prison.

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