



Department of Justice

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SOMERSET MAN SENTENCED TO 102 MONTHS FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

LONDON, Ky. – A Somerset man was sentenced to 102 months in federal prison for possession of child pornography, by United States District Court Judge Karen K. Caldwell.

Donald E. Watts, 30, was found guilty by a federal jury in November of last year for possessing one or more pictures, that had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce, and were produced using materials shipped and transported, including by computer, in interstate commerce, which involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Under federal law, Watts must served eighty-five percent of his prison sentence and upon release, will be under the supervision of the United States Probation Office in London for the rest of his life.

Amul Thapar, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, was appreciative of the work done by the FBI, the Kentucky State Police and Assistant U.S. Attorney Erin May, in putting another contributor of child exploitation behind bars and under supervision for the rest of his life.

“These images of child exploitation are not of faceless victims,” Thapar said. “Each time a picture is created and/or traded, that is another instance of a child’s innocence being taken away.”

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Kentucky State Police, Electronic Crime Section. Assistant United States Attorney Erin J. May represented the United States in the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, 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 identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

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