



PRESS RELEASE

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**ALBUQUERQUE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE**

ALBUQUERQUE – Yesterday, Christopher Daves, 25, of Albuquerque, N.M., pled guilty to an indictment charging him with possession of child pornography under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Daves will be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than 46 months and not more than 57 months to be followed by a term of supervised release to be determined by the court. Daves also will be required to register as a sex offender. Daves has been in federal custody since his arrest on July 11, 2012, and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

According to Daves’ plea agreement, Daves was arrested as the result of an undercover operation initiated by the New Mexico State Police. As a result of that investigation, agents with Homeland Security Investigations executed a search warrant at Daves’ residence on May 2, 2012, and seized his laptop computer. While the warrant was being executed, Daves voluntarily agreed to be interviewed, and admitted that he used his laptop to download child pornography on multiple occasions. A forensic examination of Daves’ laptop computer uncovered hundreds of images of child pornography.

The case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations and the New Mexico State Police, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Charlyn E. Rees and Raul Torrez.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, 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 <http://www.justice.gov/psc/>.

The case also was brought as part of the New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force whose mission it is to locate, track, and capture Internet child sexual predators and Internet child pornographers in New Mexico. There are 64 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies associated with the Task Force, which is funded by a grant administered by the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. Anyone with information relating to suspected child predators and suspected child abuse is encouraged to contact federal or local law enforcement.

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