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Eastern District of California

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LEMOORE MAN SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that JUSTIN DYLAN GIPSON, 31, of Lemoore, was sentenced by United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to seven years and three months in prison to be followed 10 years of supervised release. He pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography on January 20, 2009.

This case is the result of an investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Fresno County Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC). It was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, PSC marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information, visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov or call the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sheila K. Oberto, GIPSON came to the attention of law enforcement because of an effort by ICE and ICAC to identify individuals using peer to peer file sharing technology to share child pornography. Following the execution of a search warrant at GIPSON's home, agents found numerous images and videos of child pornography on a computer hard drive, which included images of minors engaged in sadistic or masochistic conduct or other violence.

"This sentence ensures this defendant will be unable to victimize additional children for a long time," said Brian Poulsen, resident agent in charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Fresno. "We owe it to the young victims in these cases to pursue the offenders aggressively, since many of the children who are sexually exploited by those who produce child pornography will bear the emotional scars of the trauma for rest of their lives. ICE remains committed to working with our law enforcement partners to root out these individuals who hide in the shadows of cyberspace to carry out these heinous crimes."

GIPSON has been detained in federal custody since his guilty plea.

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