

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 14, 2009

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced the unsealing of an indictment charging Matthew Allen Eaton and Laura Renee Eaton with conspiracy to transport stolen property across state lines. The sealed indictment was handed up by a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego on September 10, 2009 and was unsealed upon the arraignment of Matthew and Laura Eaton today before United States Magistrate Judge Ruben B. Brooks. The Eatons were arrested by United States Secret Service agents on September 11, 2009 pursuant to a bench warrant issued in connection with the indictment.

The indictment alleges that the Eatons stole merchandise, primarily toys, and then transported the stolen merchandise to their residence in the Southern District of California. The Eatons then sold the stolen merchandise through internet sales to customers located in and out of California. The indictment alleges that, in furtherance of the conspiracy, Matthew Eaton falsely advised customers that the merchandise he was

selling had been obtained from legitimate sources. According to the indictment, as of March 26, 2009, the Eatons were storing over 500 boxes of stolen toys at their residence.

This case was investigated by the San Diego Division of the United States Secret Service.

The Eatons are next scheduled next be in court on October 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m., before United States District Court Judge Irma E. Gonzalez for a motions hearing.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 09cr3366IEG

Matthew Allen Eaton
Laura Renee Eaton

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count 1 - Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 2314 - Conspiracy to Transport Stolen Property in Interstate Commerce
Maximum Penalties: 5 years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine

AGENCY

United States Secret Service

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.