



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

Tampa Orlando
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**COCOA BEACH MAN CHARGED WITH PRODUCING, DISTRIBUTING,
RECEIVING, AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces the and unsealing of a criminal complaint charging Berne Schmidlkofer (age 65, of Cocoa Beach) with producing, distributing, receiving, and possessing child pornography. Schmidlkofer was arrested today. If convicted on all charges, he faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison.

The criminal complaint affidavit alleges that, from November 2008 to June 2009, Schmidlkofer produced images of child pornography in interstate commerce and distributed, received, and possessed other images of child pornography in interstate commerce. Schmidlkofer is a retired Brevard county teacher and spent the last five years teaching school in Japan. He returned to Cocoa Beach in December of 2008.

This 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 United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

A criminal complaint is merely a formal charge, based on probable cause, that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the Crimes Against Children Task Force of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Carlos A. Perez-Irizarry.