



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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JACKSONVILLE MAN INDICTED AND ARRESTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES OF RECEIVING AND TRANSPORTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Jacksonville, FL - U.S. Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces the return of an indictment charging Kevin John Merritt (age 48, of Jacksonville) with receiving and transporting child pornography. Merritt was arrested at his residence this morning. He faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison.

This case was investigated by the Jacksonville Division of ICE and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Vice Unit. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kevin C. Frein.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of federal criminal law, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

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.