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MOTHER PLEADS GUILTY TO PRODUCING, TRANSPORTING, AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Fort Myers, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that Candice Marie Miller (31, Alva) today pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child pornography, two counts of transporting child pornography and two counts of producing child pornography. Miller faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison for the possession count, a mandatory minimum of 5 years up to 20 years imprisonment for each transportation count and a mandatory minimum of 15 years up to 30 years in prison for each production count.

According to court documents, Miller knowingly produced images of her two minor children engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Miller sent many of these pornographic images over the internet, to a man whom she met in an internet chat room. Miller possessed in excess of 500 images of child pornography.

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI), with the participation from the Federal Bureau Investigation's Innocent Images Task Force and the Lee County Sheriff's Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Yolande G. Viacava.

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.