



Department of Justice

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TENNESSEE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGE OF FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that yesterday Darrell Roger Coffey (31, Morristown, Tennessee) pleaded guilty to failing to register as sex offender after traveling from Tennessee to Florida. Coffey faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Coffey has been in custody since his arrest on February 9, 2011 in Interlachen, Florida. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

According to court documents, on January 13, 2010, Coffey pled guilty to aggravated statutory rape in state court in Jefferson County, Tennessee, and was convicted and sentenced to a term of two years imprisonment in Tennessee state prison. Coffey was released in September 2010 and placed on probation for a term of one year and four months. On October 7, 2010, Coffey met with his probation officer and registered with the State of Tennessee as a sex offender. Coffey was required to re-register on a monthly basis. At the time of registration, Coffey indicated that he resided in Morristown, Tennessee.

According to court documents, on October 26, 2010, an arrest warrant was issued for Coffey because he violated the terms of his probation. On December 6, 2010, an amended violation of probation petition was filed, stating that Coffey had failed to report for his scheduled meeting with his probation officer on November 4, 2010.

Subsequent investigation by the State of Tennessee Probation office in Morristown, Tennessee and the United States Marshals Service revealed that Coffey had fled from the state of Tennessee and was living in Florida. On February 9, 2011, Putnam County Sheriff's officers located and arrested Coffey at a residence in Interlachen, Florida on the Tennessee warrants for violation of probation. Coffey had moved to this residence in November 2010 and had resided there since that time.

After establishing residence in Florida in November 2010, Coffey was required to register and keep his registration current with the state of Florida under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. Further, Coffey failed to notify the Tennessee authorities that he was leaving the state of Tennessee as required by law.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Marshals Service, the State of Tennessee Probation Office, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in 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, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.