



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

Tampa                      Orlando  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 19, 2011  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

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## **BREVARD COUNTY MAN SENTENCED FOR ENTICING A MINOR**

Orlando, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge Mary S. Scriven today sentenced Lee Michael Eckler (age 31, of Rockledge) to 10 years in federal prison for enticing a minor to engage in sexual acts via the Internet.

Eckler was found guilty on February 7, 2011 after a bench trial.

According to court documents, on January 25, 2010, a Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Detective was working in an undercover capacity (UC) as a 14 year-old female in a free public chat room. While in the chat room, the undercover officer was contacted by Eckler. During the chats, the UC agreed to meet Eckler later in the day. Eckler was arrested when he showed up at a pre-arranged location to meet the UC. Eckler was arrested upon arrival and subsequently admitted to the chats and the sexual nature of the chats.

This case was investigated by The Brevard County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Carlos A. Perez-Irizarry and LaKesia Mosley.

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 as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

This case was part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to identify, investigate, and arrest those who prey on children, including human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers, and foreign-national predators whose crimes make them deportable. ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-347-2423. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.