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BATON ROUGE MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

LAFAYETTE, La.: United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced that Allen Forest Bobbett, age 60, of Baton Rouge, La., was sentenced today to serve 10 years in federal prison for attempting to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity. The sentence was handed down by U.S. District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote in federal court in Lafayette, La. In addition to the sentence, the Judge also ordered Smith to serve 10 years of supervised release and to register as a sex offender.

According to court documents previously filed with the court, Bobbett participated in an online chat on January 4, 2011, with an undercover officer he believed to be a 14-yearold female from Lafayette and identified himself to the girl as a 58-year-old male from Baton Rouge, La. As the chats continued, Bobbett used a webcam to expose himself while masturbating. On January 5, 2011, Bobbett developed a plan for the two to meet for sex. He then drove from Baton Rouge to Lafayette, and upon his arrival at the agreed meeting place, was arrested by law enforcement. The defendant admitted that he knew the girl was underage, that he understood his actions were wrong and that he would get in trouble for communicating with a juvenile.

The case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Louisiana State Police and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Myers P. Namie.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched by the Department of Justice. 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 <u>www.projectsafechildhood.gov.</u>

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

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