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**LAFAYETTE MAN SENTENCED TO 230 MONTHS IN FEDERAL
PRISON FOR PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

LAFAYETTE, La.: United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today that Cedric Conner, age 36, of Lafayette, La., was sentenced on October 31, 2012, by U.S. District Judge Richard T. Haik, to 230 months in prison, followed by 15 years of supervised release, for production of child pornography.

According to court documents, Conner, while baby sitting a 7-year-old minor female, photographed her in sexually explicit poses. Some of those photographs not only included the child, but also included Conner engaging in sexually explicit acts while in the presence of the child. In sentencing the defendant to over 19 years in prison followed by 15 years supervised release, Judge Haik stated, "That the sentence was the minimum necessary to protect the public from the defendant. His acts in sexually exploiting the young child demonstrated that he was a danger to all children." As part of the 15 years of supervised release, Conner cannot have access to any child unless the child's parent is present.

U.S. Attorney Finley stated, "We hope that this sentence sends a very strong message that people who exploit children will pay a heavy price for their actions. My office, along with our federal, state and local partners will continue to prosecute these cases to the fullest extent of the law."

Special Agent in Charge of ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New Orleans, Raymond R. Parmer Jr., stated, "Sexually abusing a child under your care is one of the most extreme violations of trust imaginable and anyone tempted to engage in such despicable behavior should turn themselves in and seek help. Combating sexual predators is one of our highest priorities and criminals should take note that those who harm the innocent will be exposed and brought to justice."

The case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Luke Walker.

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 www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The U.S. Attorney's Office and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Homeland Security Investigations/Immigration & Customs Enforcement (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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