United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan

Barbara L. McQuade
United States Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2010

Contact: Gina Balaya - (313) 226-9758
www.justice.gov/usao/mie/index.html

GARDEN CITY MAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

A 48-year-old Warren, Michigan man, who sexually abused and filmed two of his relatives as the subject of child pornography production, was sentenced to 30 years in federal court on Friday, April 30, 2010, United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced.

Joining in the announcement was William Callahan, Special Agent-In-Charge of the United States Secret Service in Detroit and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department Computer Crimes Unit.

On January 25, 2010, Eric Dale Walls pleaded guilty to one count of Production of Child Pornography before United States District Judge Stephen J. Murphy, III, in Detroit, Michigan. The information presented to the Court at the time of the plea established that between 2000 and 2009, the defendant participated in the sexual assault of two minor relatives; one victim was between the ages of seven and nine, and the other victim was between the ages of seven and fifteen. A search warrant executed at the defendant's home revealed a photographic chronology of the sexual assaults the

defendant perpetrated on the minors. The images depict Walls engaging in a series of sexual assaults some of which were sado-masochistic in nature. A search of the defendant's computers and other media storage devices also revealed 1.3 million still images of child pornography, and 3,000 videos of child pornography, the majority of which were commercially produced.

U.S. Attorney McQuade noted that this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood initiative. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, 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 identify and rescue victims.

In particular, U.S. Attorney McQuade praised the efforts of the United States Secret Service, Garden City Police Department, and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department for their efforts in this investigation. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys John N. O'Brien, II, and Eaton Brown.