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News Release

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Chanhassen man sentenced for possessing child pornography

A 39-year-old Chanhassen man was sentenced last week in federal court for possession of child pornography.

United States District Court Judge Joan Ericksen sentenced Douglas Joseph Basch to 54 months in prison and 10 years supervised release on one count of possession of child pornography Sept. 5 in Minneapolis. Basch was indicted Dec. 18, 2007, and pleaded guilty on March 12, 2008.

According to Basch's plea agreement, on Dec. 14, 2006, he knowingly possessed, in electronic format, at least three digital video files of prepubescent minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Carver County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michelle E. Jones.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a national initiative that encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional task forces to investigate and prosecute cases that involve the sexual exploitation of children over the Internet. PSC urges that law enforcement efforts be complemented by community-wide campaigns to assist victims of exploitation and to educate parents, other adults, and children about Internet safety.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, one in 33 children receives an unwanted sexual solicitation online each year. One in four children experiences unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material on the Internet each year. And, more than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week. Moreover, recent research conducted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons indicates a strong correlation between possessing or distributing child pornography and committing sexual-contact crimes against children.

The MICAC Task Force was created in 2000 through a grant from the Justice Department's

Internet Crimes Against Children program. The MICAC Task Force is one of almost 50 federally funded task forces in the country dedicated to this issue. The number of law enforcement agencies participating in the MICAC Task Force reflects the strong commitment Minnesota has made to its children and their safety.

Members of the MICAC Task Force include the sheriff's office in the counties of Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Dakota, Murray, Polk, Rice, and Washington; the police department in the cities of Minneapolis, Baxter, Burnsville, Fergus Falls, Hutchinson, Mankato, Moorhead, White Bear Lake, and Woodbury; the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation; and the South Dakota Department of Criminal Investigation.