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# **News Release**

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## **Little Canada man pleads guilty to producing child pornography**

A 23-year-old Little Canada man pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court to producing child pornography.

Aaron Jay Lemon pleaded guilty to one count of producing child pornography. Lemon entered his plea Dec. 3 in Minneapolis before United States District Court Judge David Doty. Lemon was charged on Aug. 5.

According to Lemon's plea agreement, in August 2007 he did knowingly employ, use, persuade, induce, entice, and coerce a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct.

Lemon, the agreement states, answered an ad on Craig's List to work as a babysitter, and while acting as a babysitter in St. Paul, he used a video camera to produce child pornography involving the child for whom he was babysitting.

Lemon faces a potential maximum penalty of 30 years in prison. Judge Doty will determine Lemon's sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the St. Paul Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Newberry.

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.