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# **News Release**

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## **Richfield man indicted for distributing, possession of child pornography**

A 47-year-old Richfield man was indicted yesterday in federal court for allegedly distributing and possessing child pornography.

On Dec. 9 in Minneapolis, Robert Allen Woida was charged with two counts of distribution of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography. Woida's indictment alleges that on Jan. 19, 2007, and on April 5, 2007, he did knowingly distribute via a computer a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

It also alleges that on May 8, 2007, Woida did knowingly possess matter on a computer which contained a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

If convicted, Woida faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years of each of the distribution counts and 10 years on the possession count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Ashland County Sheriff's Office, Ashland, Wisc., and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States 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.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.