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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Minneapolis man indicted for possessing child pornography

A 44-year-old Minneapolis man was indicted last week in federal court for allegedly possessing child pornography.

Michael Thomas Lynch was charged Dec. 16 with one count of possession of child pornography. His indictment alleges that on Oct. 27, 2006, Lynch did knowingly possess one or more matters which contain a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct that had been transported via a computer.

Lynch made his initial appearance at 2 p.m. today in Minneapolis.

If convicted, Lynch faces a potential maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Minneapolis Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nathan P. Petterson.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a national initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, PSC 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 PSC, visit

www.projectsafchildhood.gov.

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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.