



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,
United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

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Duluth man indicted for distributing, possessing child pornography

A 28-year-old Duluth man was indicted today in federal court for allegedly distributing and possessing child pornography.

Brandon Anthony Buchanan was charged with one count of distribution of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography. Buchanan's indictment alleges that on April 9, 2007, he knowingly transported by computer a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

The indictment also alleges that on July 17, 2007, Buchanan knowingly possessed one or more matters that contained visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

If convicted, Buchanan faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each 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. It is being prosecuted by Erika R. Mozangue.

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.projectsafekidhood.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.

