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# **News Release**

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## **Shoreview man indicted for possession of child pornography**

A 52-year-old Shoreview man was indicted today in federal court for allegedly possessing child pornography.

Thomas Charles Patton was charged with one count of possession of child pornography. Patton's indictment alleges that on March 19, 2007, he knowingly possessed one or more matters that contained a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

If convicted, Patton 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 Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Minneapolis Police Department and the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kimberly A. Svendsen.

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](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

-30-

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.