



**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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Minneapolis man pleads guilty to possessing child pornography

A 45-year-old Minneapolis man pleaded guilty today in federal court to possessing child pornography.

Michael Thomas Lynch pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child pornography. He entered his plea on March 10 in Minneapolis before United States District Court Judge John Tunheim. Lynch was indicted on Dec. 16, 2008.

According to Lynch's plea agreement, he admitted that on Oct. 27, 2006, he knowingly possessed more than 600 images which contained visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct that had been transported via a computer. During an executed search warrant at Lynch's residence, officers seized computers and numerous compact discs and digital video discs that contained the images.

Lynch faces a potential maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Judge Tunheim will determine his sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Minneapolis Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. 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.