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News Release

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Minneapolis man indicted on 3 child pornography counts

A 37-year-old Minneapolis man was indicted on three child pornography counts. Matthew Douglas Holt was charged with two counts of distribution of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography.

Holt's indictment, filed today in federal court, alleges that on April 23 and May 28, 2008, he knowingly distributed, via a computer, visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment also alleges that on Aug. 12, 2008, Holt possessed visual depictions, transported via a computer, of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

If convicted, Holt faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each distribution count 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 Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Carol Kayser.

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.