



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

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Jamestown Man Pleads Guilty to Child Pornography Charges

FARGO - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on October 3, 2008, **Joseph Belanger** of Jamestown, North Dakota, pleaded guilty before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson to possession of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors and receipt of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

Belanger, 61, pleaded guilty to possessing and receiving over 3,000 images of child pornography and over 200 videos of child pornography. On September 3, 2006, **Belanger** purchased access to a commercial website containing images and videos of child pornography. Based on this information, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) obtained and executed a search warrant for **Belanger's** residence in Jamestown, ND. During the search agents seized various electronic media containing child pornography. While being interviewed by an ICE agent **Belanger** revealed that he was a psychologist with the North Dakota State Hospital and that during his work with sex offenders he developed an interest in child pornography. **Belanger** stated that his

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Belanger Pleads Guilty

Page 2

interest eventually led to the downloading and viewing of child pornography.

The charge of possession of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors carries a statutory maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment. The charge of receipt of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors carries a statutory minimum penalty of five years' imprisonment and a statutory maximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment.

The case was investigated by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Sentencing for **Belanger** has been scheduled for December 11, 2008, in United States District Court in Fargo, North Dakota, at 11:00 a.m.

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