



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2008
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nd/>

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Lengthy Federal Sentence for Child Pornography Defendant Featured on *America's Most Wanted*

BISMARCK, November 17, 2008 - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that **Eric D. Lacey**, 48, of Bismarck, North Dakota, was sentenced by United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland to serve five years in federal prison for possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

Lacey was also ordered to serve 15 years of supervised release following his incarceration, must pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund, and must register as a sex offender. **Lacey** was ordered to forfeit the computer equipment involved in this crime.

Lacey's case was profiled on *America's Most Wanted* on April 19, 2008, and **Lacey** was arrested shortly thereafter in California. A warrant had been issued for **Lacey** after he failed to appear in United States District Court in Bismarck on April 10, 2007. **Lacey** admitted to possessing video and still images on his home computer which depicted minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The children ranged in age from under 12 years to 16 years old.

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United States Attorney Wrigley said, “I want to thank *America’s Most Wanted* for their assistance in bringing Eric Lacey to justice. The unspeakable degradation of children by pedophiles and the child pornography industry will remain a top priority until there is not a single person left to violate the innocence of these vulnerable child victims.”

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and the Bismarck Police Department.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse launched in February 2006. Led by the U.S. Attorneys’ Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov

Assistant United States Attorney Clare Hochhalter prosecuted the case.

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