

For Immediate Release
July 27, 2011

**HOBBS MAN ARRAIGNED ON FEDERAL
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

ALBUQUERQUE – This afternoon in federal court in Albuquerque, **Michael Kelly**, 34, was arraigned on a three-count indictment charging him with child pornography offenses. The indictment charges Kelly with two counts of receipt of a visual depiction of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and one count of possession of a matter containing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Kelly allegedly committed all three offenses in October 2009 in Lea County, New Mexico.

If convicted of the charges in the indictment, Kelly faces a maximum penalty of imprisonment for not less than 5 years and not more than 20 years and a lifetime of supervised release. Kelly also will be required to register as a sex offender. Kelly entered a not guilty plea to the indictment during this afternoon's proceedings, and was released into the third party custody of his parents under conditions of release, including GPS monitoring, no access to computers, and no contact with children.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Kelly was charged based on an investigation by the New Mexico State Police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations. The case, which is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Charlyn E. Rees, was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, 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 to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The case also was brought as part of the New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force whose mission it is to locate, track, and capture Internet child sexual predators and Internet child pornographers in New Mexico. There are 61 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies associated with the Task Force, which is funded by a grant administered by the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. Anyone with information relating to suspected child predators and suspected child abuse is encouraged to contact federal or local law enforcement.

Charges in indictments are only accusations. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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