

For Immediate Release
September 12, 2011

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

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court in Las Cruces, **Theodore Robert Larsen**, 32, of Carlsbad, New Mexico, was arraigned on an indictment charging him with possession of child pornography. The indictment charges Larsen with possession of a matter containing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Larsen allegedly committed the offense in January 2011 in Eddy County, New Mexico.

If convicted, Larsen faces a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment and a lifetime of supervised release. Larsen also would be required to register as a sex offender if convicted. Larsen entered a not guilty plea to the indictment during this morning's proceedings, and was ordered released pending trial on a \$10,000 bond under pretrial supervision and other conditions of release.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Larsen was charged based on an investigation by U.S. Homeland Security Investigations and the Carlsbad Police Department. The case, which is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Las Cruces Branch Office, 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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