

For Immediate Release
November 1, 2011

**CARLSBAD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE**

LAS CRUCES – Today in federal court, **Theodore Robert Larsen**, 32, of Carlsbad, N.M., pled guilty to an indictment charging him with possession of child pornography. Larsen, who was released on a \$10,000 bond following his arrest on September 7, 2011, will remain on conditions of release pending his sentencing hearing, which has not yet been set.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that. on January 26, 2011, a federal search warrant was executed at Larsen's residence in Carlsbad by Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"). According to court documents filed in conjunction with Larsen's guilty plea, when the search warrant was executed Larsen admitted to the agents that he knowingly possessed the child pornography found in the residence. Larsen also admitted that he used his computer and the Internet to access and retrieve child pornography, and that he possessed approximately 1,457 images and 264 video clips of child pornography.

At sentencing, Larsen faces a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment and a lifetime of supervised release. Larsen also will be required to register as a sex offender.

This case was investigated by HSI 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.

#

11-447