

For Immediate Release
January 23, 2012

**DEXTER, N.M. MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSE**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court, **Norman Allen**, 49, of Dexter, N.M., entered a guilty plea to possession of a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office, announced U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Allen will be sentenced to twelve years imprisonment to be followed by a lifetime of supervised release. Allen will have to pay \$500.00 in restitution to the victim in a child pornography image that was found on his computer. He also will be required to register as a sex offender after he completes his prison sentence. Allen has been in federal custody since his arrest on July 21, 2011. Allen remains detained pending his sentencing hearing.

Allen entered his guilty plea to Count 3 of a three-count indictment charging him with one count of distribution of child pornography and two counts of possession of child pornography. The indictment alleges that Allen committed the distribution offense in December 2010 and the possession offenses in April 2011. Under the plea agreement, Counts 1 and 2 will be dismissed after Allen is sentenced.

According to court records, Allen was arrested as a result of an undercover investigation by the New Southwest Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force New Mexico revealing that in December 2010, Allen was offering child pornography images through a peer-to-peer filing sharing program. Based on information generated by that investigation, in April 2011, the Chaves County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at Allen's residence in Dexter, N.M.,

and seized computers and computer-related media.

In his plea agreement, Allen acknowledged that a forensic examination of his computers and computer-related media uncovered hundreds of child pornography images and videos. Allen also acknowledged that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children determined that the child pornography images found on his computers and computer-related media included 27 child pornography videos of 16 children who have been identified as child pornography victims and have been rescued.

In addition to admitting that he unlawfully possessed child pornography in April 2011, Allen also admitted that he has a prior felony conviction for sexual assault of a minor from a New Jersey state court.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charlyn E. Rees, and was investigated by Chaves County Sheriff's Office, the Southwest Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force and the Albuquerque office of Homeland Security Investigations. The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and DOJ's 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's (ICAC Task Force) mission 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 ICAC Task Force, which is funded by a grant administered by the NMAGO. Anyone with information relating to suspected child predators and suspected child abuse is encouraged to contact federal or local law enforcement.

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