



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Elizabeth M. Martinez
Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney
Public Affairs Officer
elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov
505.224.1469

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2012

**EDWARD CHRISTY SENTENCED TO NINE YEARS IN PRISON FOR CHILD
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE – This afternoon, Albuquerque resident Edward Christy, 59, was sentenced to a nine-year term of imprisonment to be followed by a lifetime of supervised release for his conviction on child sexual exploitation and child pornography charges, announced U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales. Christy also was ordered to pay \$500.00 in restitution to the victim in a child pornography image in his possession. He also is required to register as a sex offender when he completes his prison sentence.

Christy was arrested at his Albuquerque residence on state charges on Nov. 9, 2009, after he was found with an underage female (the child) from Calif. who had been reported as missing by her parents. He was indicted on federal charges on May 26, 2010, and a superseding indictment was filed on April 26, 2011. On Sept. 30, 2011, Christy entered a guilty plea to a two-count information charging him with (1) coercion and enticement of a minor to travel in interstate commerce to engage in sexual activity, and (2) possession of child pornography.

In entering his guilty plea, Christy admitted that, between Oct. 1, 2009 and Nov. 9, 2009, he induced the child, whom he knew to be 16 years old, to travel from Calif. to New Mexico to engage in sexual activity during sexually explicit conversations with the child. Christy acknowledged transporting the child from her home in Westminister, Calif. to Albuquerque on Nov. 8, 2009, without the permission of her parents. He also admitted having sexual intercourse with the child.

Christy also admitted that, when law enforcement officers executed a search of his residence on Nov. 9, 2009, they seized computers and computer-related media which contained numerous images of child pornography. Christy acknowledged that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children determined that the child pornography found on his computers and computer-related media included 133 videos of 27 children who have been identified as child pornography victims and have been rescued.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Charlyn E. Rees and Holland S. Kastrin, and was investigated by the Bernalillo County's Sheriff's Office, the FBI, the FBI Regional Computer Forensic Lab in New Mexico, the District Attorney's Office for the Second

Judicial District of the State of New Mexico, the Westminister Police Department, and the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

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 64 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies associated with the ICAC 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.

###

12-135