



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of New York*

*James T. Foley U.S. Courthouse
445 Broadway, Room 218
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 431-0247*

March 12, 2009

PRESS RELEASE

Andrew T. Baxter, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York, York, and Patrick Coultry, Resident Agent in Charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, announced that **GRANT E. ZANKER**, age 56, of Albany, New York, and formerly of Schoharie, New York, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Lawrence E. Kahn in Federal Court in Albany on his guilty plea to a one count Information charging him with the possession of child pornography. **ZANKER** was sentenced to 240 months imprisonment and ordered to serve a life time term of supervised release. He also was ordered to (1) have no unsupervised contact with minors; (2) participate in a sex offender program; and (3) register with the New York State Sex Offender Registry Program. The court also ordered that various computer equipment be forfeited to the United States.

ZANKER plead guilty on July 30, 2008. In connection with his plea, he admitted the following:

In July of 2007, ZANKER, using the online service Google Hello and the email address of "hedonismisfun@gmail.com" , communicated, via instant messaging, with an individual from the State of Florida. During these communications, which were from his residence, ZANKER and this individual traded child pornography using said service. More specifically, ZANKER sent this individual, via his computer, images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and this individual sent him similar such images...

On March 31, 2008, a federal search warrant was executed at ZANKER'S residence in the Northern District of New York, and a Compaq Presario computer..., an HP Pavilion Computer..., and a number of computer disks owned and used by ZANKER were recovered from his residence. One of the computer disks was labeled "My Clips Disk" and the other was labeled "Very Nice Clips for my Special Friends Disk". Forensic examinations of all of these items were subsequently conducted. Thousands of images (still and movie files) depicting minors between the ages of 3 & 16 years of age engaged in sexually explicit conduct...were recovered from said computers and computer disks. Said images depict individuals under the age of 18 engaged in, among other things, vaginal intercourse, oral sex, anal sex, masturbation and the lascivious exhibition of the genitals and pubic area. A number of these images also depict naked minors involved in sadistic and masochistic conduct including, but not limited to, bondage, the insertion of dildos or sex toys, anal sex, digital anal penetration, and vaginal intercourse between adult males and very young minors. All of the images recovered depict actual, as opposed to computer generated, images of minors engaged in such conduct. Many of these images depict prepubescent minors engaged in such conduct

ZANKER was previously convicted, federally, of possessing child pornography in 2001. In addition, he was convicted in New York State courts of acting in a manner injurious to a child in 1990, and the attempted dissemination of indecent material to a minor in 2000.

At the time of his offense, **ZANKER** was employed, part time, with both the Bronx Defender's Office and the Homeless and Travelers Aid Society of the Capital District. He was once employed as the Commissioner of Social Services for Otsego County and the Deputy Commissioner of Social Services for Schoharie County.

The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Albany, New York, and the Albany Police Department.

CONTACT:

Thomas Spina Jr.
Assistant U.S. Attorney
tel.(518) 431-0247