

Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 23, 2012
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NIAGARA FALLS MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Jeff Coon, 37, of Niagara Falls, N.Y., who was convicted of possession of child pornography, was sentenced to 97 months in prison and 20 years of supervised release by U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Edward H. White and Marie P. Grisanti who handled the case, stated that a tip from federal German police led to the execution of a search warrant in April 2009 at the defendant's Niagara Falls residence. Special Agents discovered videos containing child pornography on two computer hard drives and two disks. Some of the children shown in the videos were prepubescent or minors under the age of 12 and some of the videos portrayed depictions of violence. The 60 videos were sent to the defendant in interstate commerce via the Internet.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), 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.projectsafchildhood.gov.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent-In-Charge James C. Spero.

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