

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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FAIRPORT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO OBSCENITY CHARGE

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that David Deaugustine, 71, of Fairport, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer, to possessing obscene visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa J. Miller, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant possessed more than 600 obscene visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct on a computer that he owned. The images were discovered during the execution of a search warrant at the defendant's residence in September 2005 by members of the New York State Police.

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.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

The plea 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, and members of the New York State Police under the direction of Superintendent Joseph A. D'Amico.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 9th, at 11 a.m. before Judge Larimer.

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