

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter  
Western District of New York

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## **PEACE CORPS TEACHER SENTENCED FOR TRANSPORTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- JAMES RICHFORD GROVER, age 35, of Corning, NY, was sentenced today to 60 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer, United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter announced. Grover pled guilty in July to a felony information charging him with one count of Transportation of Child Pornography. He was also sentenced to 10 years of supervised release and ordered to pay a \$500 fine. Transportation of Child pornography carries a mandatory minimum period of 60 months incarceration with a maximum period of 240 months imprisonment, fines of up to \$250,000, and supervised release of up to life. The defendant pled guilty pursuant to a plea agreement in which both parties agreed that the sentencing guideline range would be 97-121 months imprisonment and a fine of \$15,000-\$150,000. Judge Larimer imposed a non-guideline sentence over the government's objection.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig R. Gestring, who handled the case, stated that the defendant was intercepted in December 2008 at the Detroit International Airport while entering the United States from the Ukraine with over a thousand images and movies of child pornography on his computer. Grover was returning to the United States for the holidays from his overseas posting as a teacher with the Peace Corps in the Ukraine. He was arrested by Special Agents of the United States Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

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.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The prosecution and investigation of this case were coordinated by the United States Attorneys Offices and the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Offices from the Western District of New York and the Eastern District of Michigan.