

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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HENRIETTA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- MICHAEL S. MAIER, 26, of Rochester, NY, pled guilty on October 6, 2009, before U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa, to a felony complaint charging him with one count of receipt of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today. The receipt of child pornography charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years and a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, and a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig R. Gestring, who handled the case, stated that on October 28, 2008, the defendant possessed a computer and several hard drives which contained thousands of images of child pornography which he had downloaded from the internet using peer-to-peer software. He was investigated by deputies of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and later 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.projectsafchildhood.gov.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Lev Kubiak, and Deputies from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office under the direction of Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 8, 2010, in Rochester, NY, in front of U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa.