

Department of Justice

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MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BUFFALO, N.Y.--Joseph Peter Moon, 49, of Youngstown, New York, pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara, to a felony charge of Receipt of Child Pornography, U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today. Receipt of Child Pornography carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years and a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti, who handled the case, stated that on or about June 8, 2008, in the Western District of New York, the defendant knowingly received child pornography on his computer. The defendant had approximately 8 videos of child pornography on his computers at his residence in Youngstown, New York.

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.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the New York State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the New York State Police Computer Crimes Unit under the direction of Captain Frank Pace. Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of James H. Robertson, Special Agent In Charge, assisted with bringing the federal prosecution.

Sentencing is scheduled for December 16, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., in front of Chief U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara.