



# PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RETIRED GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL TEACHER SENTENCED TO 121 MONTHS FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

**Columbia, South Carolina**---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Julian Ray Wates, age 64, of Greer, South Carolina, was sentenced today in federal court in Anderson, South Carolina, for possession of child pornography, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A. Senior United States District Judge G. Ross Anderson, Jr. of Anderson sentenced WATES to 121 months imprisonment and supervised release for life.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that on August 14, 2010, a law enforcement officer in Illinois logged onto the Gigatribe file sharing program and browsed the shared directory files that belonged to Wates. These were files designated by Wates for distribution to others interested

in child pornography. The officer downloaded 31 files and discovered images of child in various states of undress and performing sex acts. Based on this information, a search warrant was obtained for Wates' residence in Greer, South Carolina. Law enforcement seized Wates' computer and conducted a forensic examination of the computer. The examination of the computer revealed hundreds of images and videos of children under the age of 18 engaged in sexual activity.

The case was investigated by agents of the Greer Police Department and the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Investigations. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Watkins of the Greenville office handled the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, 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 identify and rescue victims. For more information, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

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