



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHUCK ROSENBERG

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Jim Rybicki
Public Information Officer
Phone: (703) 842-4050 Fax: (703) 549-5202
E-Mail: usavae.press@usdoj.gov
Website: www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae

Further Information Contact:
Elizabeth Waston (804) 819-5400

CHESTERFIELD MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(Richmond, VA) - James C. Wakefield, age 48, of Chesterfield, Virginia, was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge Robert E. Payne to 96 months in prison for possessing child pornography and obstructing justice. Wakefield was found guilty of the charges by a jury on January 23, 2007. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and Charlie Cunningham, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced the sentence.

Evidence at trial established that Wakefield possessed thousands of images of child pornography that were saved in explicitly labeled folders on his home computer. During the spring and summer of 2005, FBI agents confirmed that a credit card bearing Wakefield's name had been used to purchase child pornography from an Internet website. On October 14, 2005, law enforcement agents interviewed Wakefield at his residence. Wakefield did not allow agents to enter his home, but agreed to permit them to analyze his computers outside of his residence and voluntarily brought his computers outside to the waiting agents, one at a time. It was during this time that Wakefield attempted to delete hundreds of images of child pornography from his computer.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Alexandria, Virginia, has identified dozens of children appearing in the child pornography images possessed by Wakefield as sexual abuse victims from prior law enforcement investigations worldwide.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Virginia State Police, and the Virginia Office of the Attorney General. Special Assistant United States Attorney Gene Fishel and Assistant United States Attorney Elizabeth Wu prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States.

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