



U.S. Department of Justice

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December 18, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**FLORIDA MAN INDICTED ON ST. CROIX FOR
TRANSPORTING AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

John Duane Green, 51, of Hernando, Florida was indicted today by a federal grand jury on St. Croix on charges of transporting and possessing child pornography, Acting United States Attorney Paul A. Murphy and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent-in-Charge Manuel Oyola Torres announced today.

According to the two-count indictment, on or about September 24, 2008 on St. Croix, Green knowingly transported in interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, one or more visual depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit activity. Additionally, the indictment charges Green with knowingly possessing one or more visual depictions of explicit sexual conduct by a minor that had been mailed, shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce, by any means including by computer. The indictment also seeks the forfeiture of the computer used to transport and possess the images.

“One of the highest priorities of the Department of Justice is combating the exploitation of children,” Acting U.S. Attorney Murphy said. “ The Department recently unveiled an innovative national public service announcement (PSA) campaign to educate parents about the potential dangers their children face online and, for the first time, warn potential online predators that exploiting a child online is a serious federal offense.”

The four new PSAs were developed to highlight the risks children face on the Internet, and emphasize why it is important that parents monitor what sites their children visit and who they talk to online, Murphy said. One of the PSAs is entitled “Know Where They Go,” and another is entitled “Exploiting a Minor Is a Major Offense.” Spanish-language PSAs also are available for television, radio, print and the Internet.

For more information about the PSAs, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov. You may also call Assistant U.S. Attorney Denise A. Hinds in the U.S Attorney’s Office at (340) 773-3920.

If convicted of the transportation of child pornography charge, Green faces a minimum of five years in prison and a maximum of 20 years. He faces a maximum of 10 years imprisonment if convicted on the possession of child pornography charge. Each charge also carries a maximum \$250,000 fine.

Acting U.S. Attorney Murphy reminded the public that an indictment is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent until found guilty by a trial jury or otherwise in a court of law.

The indictment was the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement as part of Operation Predator, a nationwide initiative to protect children from sexual predators.

"The sexual exploitation and abuse of a child is one of the most heinous acts imaginable," Special Agent-in-Charge Oyola Torres said. "ICE will continue to work in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney's Office and our local law enforcement partners to protect our communities from sexual predators. Simply put, we have an obligation to protect those who cannot protect themselves."

To report suspicious activity of suspected child predators, please call ICE’s toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.