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GUILTY VERDICT IN CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASE

The United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, Maxwell Wood, announced that on November 30, 2004, defendant Michael Aaron O'Keefe was convicted in the United States District Court in Albany, Georgia, of one count of Receipt of Child Pornography, one count of Advertising of Child Pornography and two counts of Possession of Child Pornography. O'Keefe is facing a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years imprisonment for advertising child pornography.

The Government's Evidence presented at trial proved:

- The defendant possessed numerous images of child pornography and child erotica both on a PC in his home and on a floppy diskette found near his home computer.
- In July of 2000, shortly after his wife received a Dell computer from Darton College for use at home, O'Keefe, set up and managed a web site called "modelquest," which included a slide show of little girls, being sexually abused, and some as young as 3 or 4 years of age being raped and sodomized. This site was eventually shut down.
- The evidence proved that some two years later, the defendant set up a another website entitled "HC Tweens" from his class room at Lee County High School on December 18, 2002, using a computer in his classroom. Students were apparently taking their final exams or in an extended study period during this time.
- The defendant testified at trial and admitted he set up HC Tweens from LCHS, but claimed it was part of a vigilante effort to expose child pornography on the internet.
- Evidence proved, despite, O'Keefe's denials, that O'Keefe accessed and administered "HCTweens" website from his home in Albany, using the same Dell computer purchased for his wife to use in managing her math classes.
- HC Tweens, an abbreviation for "hard core Tweens" was an advertisement and notice for child pornography posted on a YAHOO group site created by O'Keefe. The site invited others to view child pornography the images in the "photo gallery." However, in order to be admitted, the potential members had to first

send O'Keefe three hard core images of little girls having oral sex, anal sex, vaginal sex, with adult males, or photos of little girls being ejaculated on by adult males.

- O'Keefe admitted at trial to setting up a "poll" for visitors to participate in, asking for details of their favorite sexual activity with minors. O'Keefe denied knowing about the images on the web site, despite the fact that they all were directly traceable to his e-mail accounts.
- The evidence proved that O'Keefe also downloaded onto the Dell computer numerous images of "child erotica," and incest stories about children being abused, raped, and murdered by their parents.
- After HC Tweens was shut down by Yahoo in January of 2003, the defendant continued his efforts to collect child pornography. O'Keefe posed as a 12 year old girl and her 13 year old friend in sexually explicit email exchanges with an adult male and sent child pornographic images to this adult male. O'Keefe asked the adult male to send him (posing as young girls) child pornography images of young girls having sex with adult males. In exchange O'Keefe promised the adult male that he could have unprotected anal sex with the young girl when the adult male came to visit.

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Georgia. The prosecution team included Assistant United States Attorney Jim Crane, together with the Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section ("CEOS") Trial Attorney Damon King, Director of the High Technology Investigative Unit Jim Fottrell, Special Agents Cory Brant and Alberto Prieto of Department of Homeland Security, Atlanta, Georgia.

The defendant was immediately taken into custody after the verdict and will remain in custody until the time of sentencing, expected to be in about 60-90 days.

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MAXWELL WOOD
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY