



U.S. Department of Justice

***United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**United States Attorney
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*****CORRECTION*****

(SEE U.S. ATTORNEY'S QUOTE)

**U.S. Attorney Convenes Meeting of Law Enforcement
Organizations to Kick Off Project Safe Childhood**

Little Rock - Today, Bud Cummins, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, convened a meeting with representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Secret Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Arkansas Attorney General's Office, the Internet Crimes against Children Task Force, the Arkansas State Police, the Little Rock and North Little Rock Police Departments, the Prosecuting Attorney's Offices for Pulaski and Saline Counties, and the Arkansas Crime Information Center to initiate PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD in the Eastern District. Project Safe Childhood is a nationwide initiative to coordinate federal, state, and local law enforcement resources to investigate and prosecute child exploitation cases and rescue the victims of those crimes. The initiative also involves the creation and implementation of programs to educate parents and protect children from online predators.

President Bush and Attorney General Gonzales have charged each U.S. Attorney to coordinate and implement the Project Safe Childhood initiative and to report the results. Today, discussions were had to ensure the highest level of information exchange and cooperation of law enforcement in the district to maximize the apprehension of child predators and to ensure the worst offenders get the maximum amount of jail time, whether through state or federal prosecutions.

The ultimate goal of Project Safe Childhood is to enhance the national response to the growing threat of sexual predators, molesters, and pornographers and to protect America's children - the most innocent and vulnerable of our society - from the evil doers who seek to rob them of their innocence. Today, the U.S Attorney, along with various law enforcement partners, accepted the challenge and have taken the first step to meet the objectives of Project Safe Childhood, to ensure the safety of the children of this community through coordinated law enforcement efforts.

"Federal, state and local law enforcement organizations are all already doing great work in investigating and prosecuting predators in this district," stated Cummins. "What the President and Attorney General hope to accomplish through Project Safe Childhood is to offer even better coordination, maximize our resources, and insure that no guilty defendant goes unpunished or under-punished. The closer we work with out state and local partners, the more predators we will take off the streets - and this is really the bottom line ground **goal** of Project Safe Childhood."

Valuable resources:

Project Safe Childhood	www.projectsafechildhood.gov
I-SAFE America	www.isafe.org
Web Wise Kids	www.webwisekids.org
NetSmartz	www.netsmartz.org
Amber Alert	www.amberalert.gov
National Center for	www.missingkids.com
Missing and Exploited HOTLINE:	1-800-THE-LOST
Children	

Ikeepsafe	www.ikeepsafe.org
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Internet Crimes Against	Arkansas State Police
Children Task Force	Special Agent Hoyt Harness
	hoyt.harness@asp.arkansas.gov

Child Abuse and Neglect	
HOTLINE:	1-800-482-5964

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