



# Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2010  
[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV)

PAO  
(202) 514-2007  
TDD (202) 514-1888

## **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RELEASES FIRST NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR CHILD EXPLOITATION PREVENTION AND INTERDICTION**

### ***U.S. Marshals Service to Launch Nationwide Operation Targeting Top 500 Most Dangerous, Non-compliant Sex Offenders***

LITTLE ROCK – Following an announcement today by Attorney General Eric Holder, Jane Duke, United States Attorney, announced today that the Department of Justice released its first ever National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction. The strategy also provides the first ever comprehensive threat assessment of the dangers facing children from child pornography, online enticement, child sex tourism, commercial sexual exploitation, and sexual exploitation in Indian Country, and outlines a blueprint to strengthen the fight against these crimes. The strategy builds upon the department’s accomplishments in combating child exploitation by establishing specific, aggressive goals and priorities and increasing cooperation and collaboration at all levels of government and the private sector.

As part of the overall strategy, the U.S. Marshals Service is launching a nationwide operation targeting the top 500 most dangerous, non-compliant sex offenders in the nation. Additionally, the department will create a national database to allow federal, state, tribal, local and international law enforcement partners to deconflict their cases with each other, engage in undercover operations from a portal facilitated or hosted by the database, share information and intelligence and conduct analysis on dangerous offenders and future threats and trends. The department also created 38 additional Assistant U.S. Attorney positions to devote to child exploitation cases, and over the coming months will work to fill the vacancies and train the new assistants in this specialized area.

“Although we’ve made meaningful progress in protecting children across the country, and although we’ve brought a record number of offenders to justice in recent years, it is time to renew our commitment to this work. It is time to intensify our efforts,” said Attorney General Holder. “This new Strategy provides the roadmap necessary to do just that – to streamline our education, prevention and prosecution activities; to improve information sharing and collaboration; and to make the most effective use of limited resources. Together, we are sending an important message – that

the U.S. government, and our nation's Department of Justice, has never been more committed to protecting our children and to bringing offenders to justice.”

“An integral part of our local approach is to work with law enforcement agencies at every level – federal, state or local – to combat this growing problem,” stated Duke. “We are also committed to bringing training opportunities to those state and local agencies that have expressed a desire and willingness to work together in protecting children.”

This past year, the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Arkansas, sponsored state-of-the-art training for law enforcement across the district to enhance their ability to detect and arrest perpetrators of these crimes. With our PSC partners, we have made presentations and provided education to students, educators, parents and church and civic organizations. In the fall, we will launch a public service announcement campaign to further 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 National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction first analyzed the threat to our nation's children and described the current efforts at all levels of the government against this threat. Since FY 2006, the Department of Justice has filed 8,464 Project Safe Childhood (PSC) cases against 8,637 defendants. These cases include prosecutions of online enticement of children to engage in sexual activity, interstate transportation of children to engage in sexual activity, production, distribution and possession of child pornography, and other offenses. In the Eastern District of Arkansas, PSC cases have been filed against 90 defendants.

Of those cases, seventy-one defendants have been sentenced. The sentences have ranged from the lowest of twenty-five months to the highest of 298 months incarceration. Supervised release after sentencing ranged from a minimum of five years to life. In almost all cases, the defendants forfeited the property they used to commit the crime.

In 2006, PSC directed the United States Attorney's Offices to integrate state and local law enforcement with federal law enforcement to multiply our efforts to remove child predators from our districts. The Eastern District of Arkansas has prosecuted cases directly from state and local agencies and the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force since 2006. In cases referred by the state and locals, federal agencies provide support with de-confliction of cases, search warrants, leads, legal process and forensic examinations. There are no turf battles in the Eastern District. All law enforcement, whether local, state or federal, work together to fight crimes against children.

Despite vigorously fighting all aspects of child exploitation, the department recognized that more work remains to be done. To that end, the department's strategy lays out goals to increase coordination among the nation's investigators, better train investigators and prosecutors, advance law enforcement's technological capabilities and

enhance research to inform decisions on deterrence, incarceration and monitoring. The strategy also includes a renewed commitment to public awareness and community outreach.

As part of its public outreach efforts, the department is re-launching [ProjectSafeChildhood.gov](http://ProjectSafeChildhood.gov), the Project Safe Childhood (PSC) public website. PSC is a department initiative launched in 2006 that aims to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, PSC marshals federal, state, tribal and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

For more information regarding the National Strategy to Combat Child Exploitation, Prevention and Interdiction, please visit:

[www.projectsafekidhood.gov/docs/natstrategyreport.pdf](http://www.projectsafekidhood.gov/docs/natstrategyreport.pdf).

###