



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney David C. Weiss
District of Delaware**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 16, 2010
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/DE

CONTACT: EDWARD J. MCANDREW
PHONE: (302) 573-6277, ext. 130

MILFORD AND NEWARK MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO CHILD EXPLOITATION CHARGES

David C. Weiss, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced that two Delaware men pled guilty today to child exploitation charges in separate cases.

Eric Wayne Tindall, age 51, of Milford, Delaware, pled guilty to attempted receipt of child pornography, in violation of federal law. Prior to his June 24, 2010 arrest, Tindall owned and operated W.E.T. Painting, a home painting business, in Milford. Tindall, who will be sentenced on March 23, 2011 by United States District Judge Sue L. Robinson, faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison and a maximum sentence of twenty years in prison. Tindall also faces a term of supervised release following his prison sentence of five years to life, and will be required to register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction in which he lives, works, or attends school.

According to statements made at today's hearing and documents filed in court, Tindall came to the attention of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations and the United States Postal Inspection Service in the summer of 2010, during an investigation of a commercial child pornography website. Tindall later responded to a fake advertisement created by law enforcement agents, which offered to sell child pornography movies. Tindall attempted to order six child pornography movies, and asked if he could special order child pornography movies featuring "3-4 year olds" and movies with "young black girls." Tindall was arrested at his home on June 24, 2010, after he accepted delivery of a package that he believed contained the videos he had ordered. Tindall has been detained since his arrest.

In a second case, Joseph Starkey, age 31, of Newark, Delaware, pled guilty to transfer of obscene material to a minor, in violation of federal law. Starkey, who will be sentenced by United States District Judge Sue L. Robinson on March 24, 2011, faces a maximum sentence of ten years in prison and three years of supervised release. He also will be required to register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction in which he lives, works, or attends school.

In April 2010, Starkey came to the attention of a Special Agent of the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Child Predator Unit, who was posing online as a 13-year-old girl. Using the screen name "oneluckyguy79," Starkey engaged the fictitious minor in a number of video chats during which Starkey repeatedly masturbated via a web camera. During the chats, Starkey attempted to persuade the fictitious minor to send him nude pictures. Starkey also offered to

purchase a web camera for the fictitious minor and offered tips on how to hide a web camera from her parents. Starkey has been detained since his August 19, 2010 arrest.

United States Attorney David C. Weiss stated, "Messrs. Tindall and Starkey are two men who found different ways to attempt to sexually exploit children. Whether they use the latest internet technologies or traditional mail, those who seek to exploit children will find themselves primary targets of law enforcement."

"While we cannot give back the innocence to those who were abused and exploited, we can make sure that justice is served," said John Kelleghan, ICE special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Philadelphia. "HSI and its law enforcement partners stand vigilant to protect the most vulnerable among us, our children."

These cases were investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Pennsylvania Child Predator Unit. These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Edward J. McAndrew.

###