



Department of Justice

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GAINESVILLE MAN SENT TO PRISON FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSES

Gainesville, GA - MARVIN D. BRIDGES, 37, of Gainesville, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge William C. O'Kelley to serve over 11 years in federal prison on charges of receiving and possessing child pornography.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the sentencing, "This defendant's repeated purchases of child pornography directly promoted an industry that is based upon the sexual exploitation and degradation of children. By prosecuting consumers of child pornography such as this defendant, we make our community safer for our children."

"We are committed to protecting the most vulnerable segment of our society-our children," said Kenneth A. Smith, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Atlanta. "The exploitation of children is a despicable act that will not go unchecked."

BRIDGES was sentenced to 11 years, 3 months in prison to be followed by supervised release for the rest of his life. A federal jury convicted BRIDGES of these charges after trial on October 9, 2008.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: BRIDGES was identified as a possible child pornography consumer during an ICE investigation of a series of websites that distributed child pornography. Evidence developed in that investigation revealed that BRIDGES was a customer of several of the websites targeted and downloaded child pornography onto his home computer. In September 2007, federal and local authorities searched his home, recovering a computer whose hard drive contained thousands of images of child pornography. A forensic examination of the hard drive yielded e-mails confirming BRIDGES' membership in several of the targeted websites as well as evidence of his accessing of illegal content on those websites. BRIDGES testified, claiming that he had no knowledge of any child pornography on his computer. The jury deliberated for just over 30 minutes before returning its guilty verdict.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Attorney General launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices around the country, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as well as officers of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office.

Assistant United States Attorneys Corey Steinberg and Robert McBurney prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.