

Department of Justice

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates Northern District of Georgia

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<u>CHILD MOLESTER SENTENCED TO</u> 15 YEARS FOR MAILING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Man Released from State Prison for Child Molestation Sent Child Porn to State Prison

Atlanta, GA - PRESTON DANIEL COOPER, A/K/A DANIEL COOPER, 44, of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Evans to serve 15 years in federal prison on charges of mailing child pornography.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "Federal law mandates at least 15 years in prison for defendants with two convictions for crimes against children. This defendant had just been released from state prison for child molestation. He then mailed child pornography to a former fellow inmate still imprisoned at Telfair State Prison."

"The use of the U.S. mails to victimize children will not be tolerated, plain and simple," said Martin D. Phanco, Postal Inspector in Charge.

COOPER was sentenced to15 years in prison to be followed by a lifetime of supervised release. COOPER was convicted of these charges on May 5, 2010, after a trial.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: COOPER, soon after being released from state prison where he was serving a 15 year sentence for child molestation, printed child pornography from a computer located in the group housing where he was living. COOPER then mailed some of these images by secreting them in a false compartment within an Easter greeting card. He mailed the card and images to an inmate that he knew at Telfair State Prison. Prison officials noticed that the card was unusually thick, investigated, and found the images secreted inside. The United States Postal Service traced the card and images back to COOPER.

This case was investigated by Inspectors of the United States Postal Service.

Assistant United States Attorneys Kim Dammers and Shanya Dingle prosecuted the case.

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.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Linda Isaac, at (404) 581-6056. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <u>www.justice.gov/usao/gan</u>.