



Department of Justice

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LaFAYETTE MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ROME, GA - CHADWICK KEITH BRANNON, 27, of LaFayette, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States Senior District Judge Robert L. Vining, Jr., to serve 6 years in federal prison on charges of possessing child pornography.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "There were disturbing videos of child pornography found on this defendant's computer, and there was testimony at trial of two victims whom he sexually molested for several years, beginning when they were only seven years old. Although this prison sentence cannot undo the harm that has already been inflicted, the sentence protects the children of Northwest Georgia from further acts of sexual molestation at the hands of this defendant by removing him from the community for six years."

"Today's prison sentence is a reminder of the serious crime that is committed when predators use the Internet to victimize innocent children by possessing images of child pornography," said Brock Nicholson, Acting Special Agent in Charge of ICE Office Homeland Security Investigations in Atlanta. "ICE agents will continue to work tirelessly to identify these child predators and bring them to justice."

BRANNON was sentenced to 6 years in prison to be followed by 20 years of supervised release, and ordered to register as a sex offender upon his release from prison. BRANNON was convicted of these charges on July 22, 2010, after a four-day-long jury trial.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: BRANNON was arrested in October 2008 in Cherokee County, Alabama, for passing counterfeit currency. On December 15, 2008, Special Agents of the United States Secret Service went to BRANNON's apartment in Rome, Georgia, where BRANNON gave consent to the agents to take and search his computer for evidence of counterfeiting. When the agents performed an initial examination of the computer, they found several suspected videos of child pornography. At that point, the investigation was transferred to Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement because of their experience in investigating child pornography cases. A forensic examination of BRANNON's computer revealed nine videos, most of which showed adult men engaging in sexual activity with boys around the age of 8 to 10 years old. BRANNON elected to go to trial. His conviction was secured in part by the testimony of two

witnesses who stated that BRANNON sexually molested them over several years starting when they were 7 years old.

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).

Assistant United States Attorney Paul R. Jones prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, 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.justice.gov/usao/gan.