

Department of Justice

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MASSACHUSETTS MAN CHARGED WITH FAILURE TO UPDATE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

Peoria, Ill. - A federal grand jury today returned an indictment charging a Massachusetts man with violation of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA): Jason E. Moniz, 28, of Fall River, Massachusetts.

The indictment alleges that from July 5, 2012, to about Aug. 13, 2012, Moniz failed to register and to update registration as a sex offender after leaving the state of Massachusetts and traveling to Macomb, Ill.

Moniz was previously charged by criminal complaint and was arrested on Aug. 13, at a residence in the 200 block of E. Carroll, in Macomb. On Aug. 21, U.S. Magistrate Judge John A. Gorman ordered that Moniz remain detained in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

The charge against Moniz was investigated by the U.S. Marshals Service in the Central District of Illinois; the Macomb Police Department; and the Fall River, Mass., Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk D. Schoenbein.

If convicted, the offense carries a statutory penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

The cases were brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state 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 about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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