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COAL CITY PARAMEDIC AND YOUTH SOCCER COACH CHARGED WITH RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

CHICAGO – A Coal City, Ill., paramedic and youth soccer coach was charged federally today with receiving child pornography on his computer, a day after federal agents searched his Grundy County residence and computer, and he was taken into custody on a state warrant. The defendant, **Timothy Scholtes**, 44, was charged in a criminal complaint filed today, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and James Gibbons, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in Chicago.

Scholtes was scheduled to have an initial appearance at 2 p.m. today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Martin Ashman in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

The complaint charges Scholtes with receiving a computer video file containing child pornography on May 31, 2008. The video allegedly depicted three pre-pubescent boys, approximately 8 to 10 years old, all of whom appear to be real children, engaging in various acts of sexual conduct. According to the complaint affidavit, a preliminary forensic analysis conducted during the search yesterday of a computer belonging to and used by Scholtes revealed at least 100 images and five videos, including the one allegedly received on May 31, 2008, containing child pornography.

Agents also seized a camcorder and digital camera from Scholtes' home, along with a large number of compact discs and video tapes.

The complaint further alleges that on May 22, 2009, ICE agents learned from a 10-year-old player on Scholtes' soccer team and the youth's parents, that on April 30 this year, the youth refused to ride to/from practice with Scholtes because the youth had told his parents that Scholtes had made a sexual solicitation while driving him home after the previous soccer practice. There is no allegation in the complaint that Scholtes engaged in any sexual contact with the youth.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Grimes.

If convicted, receiving child pornography carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years in prison and a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. The Court, however, would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed under the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The public is reminded that a complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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