



U. S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Northern District of Illinois

Patrick J. Fitzgerald  
United States Attorney

Federal Building  
219 South Dearborn Street, Fifth Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
(312) 353-5300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY DECEMBER 1, 2011  
[www.justice.gov/usao/iln](http://www.justice.gov/usao/iln)

PRESS CONTACTS:  
AUSA Jennie Levin 312-353-5372  
Randall Samborn 312-353-5318

**DES PLAINES MAN INDICTED FOR ALLEGEDLY MANUFACTURING CHILD  
PORNOGRAPHY AND CROSSING STATE LINE TO MOLEST A MINOR**

CHICAGO — A Des Plaines man who was arrested last month for allegedly transporting child pornography via computer was indicted on new charges alleging he manufactured child pornography involving at least three minor victims, federal law enforcement officials announced today. The defendant, **Bobby Cruz**, 32, was charged with four counts of producing child pornography by enticing minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct, one count of crossing a state line to engage in a sexual act with a minor under 12, two counts of transporting child pornography, and one count of possessing child pornography in an eight-count indictment returned late yesterday by a federal grand jury.

Cruz was ordered to remain in federal custody without bond after he was arrested on Nov. 1 and charged with a single count of transporting child pornography after federal agents discovered allegedly illegal images on his home computer. Subsequent investigation, which discovered additional child victims, resulted in the new charges contained in the indictment alleging molestation and production of child pornography. The indictment was announced by Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Gary J. Hartwig, Special Agent-in-

Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Chicago.

Cruz will be arraigned at a later date in U.S. District Court. If convicted of crossing a state line to molest a minor under 12, he faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 30 years and a maximum of life in prison.

In announcing the indictment, law enforcement officials provided the media with a photograph of Cruz in an effort to solicit information from the public pertaining to any suspicious contact that Cruz might have had with any unknown minor victims. Anyone with such information is encouraged to contact ICE Special Agent Jennifer Sapper at 630-574-4941. The Des Plaines Police Department and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office assisted in the investigation.

According to the four manufacturing counts, Cruz allegedly produced child pornography involving at three least minor victims between September 2007 and June 2009 in Des Plaines, and between March 2008 and June 2009 in Morris, Ill. In each of the four alleged instances, Cruz persuaded, induced, and enticed a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct, the charges allege. On Oct. 22, 2010, Cruz allegedly crossed a state line to molest a minor under 12.

The remaining counts allege that Cruz transmitted and possessed child pornography between September and November 2011. The initial complaint against Cruz alleged that on Sept. 14, 2011, he sent an email to an undercover ICE agent with an attached zip file containing approximately 100 images of child pornography. The investigation began when agents learned that the same email account, allegedly identified later as belonging to Cruz, was used to trade hundreds of child pornography images with an unnamed individual in December 2010. ICE agents subsequently linked the email account to Cruz's residence. On Nov. 1, agents executed a search warrant and seized a laptop computer, an external hard-drive, and other items allegedly containing numerous

images and videos of alleged child pornography. The indictment seeks forfeiture of the computer equipment and other seized items.

The investigation was part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel abroad for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennie Levin.

Crossing a state line to engage in a sexual act with a minor under 12 carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 30 years and a maximum of life in prison. Each of the four counts of manufacturing child pornography carries a mandatory minimum of 15 years and a maximum of 30 years in prison. Transporting child pornography carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years and a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each count, and possessing child pornography carries a 10-year maximum prison term. Each count also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. If convicted, the Court must impose a reasonable sentence under federal statutes and the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The public is reminded that an indictment 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.

# # # #