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FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN SOUTH BEND RETURNS INDICTMENTS

South Bend, IN—The United States Attorney's Office announced that a Grand Jury sitting in South Bend, Indiana, returned the following Indictments on February 9, 2012:

Stephen P. Sachs, 52, of Goshen, Indiana, was charged in an Indictment unsealed today with one count of receipt of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography.

Sachs had his initial appearance today before Magistrate Judge Christopher Nuechterlein and was remanded into custody. He will have his arraignment/detention hearing on 2/27/12 at 2 PM.

This case resulted from an investigation by members of the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, including the United States Secret Service and the Elkhart County Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Maciejczyk.

This case was 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 United States 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.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

The United States Attorney's Office emphasized that an Indictment is merely an allegation and that all persons charged are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.