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# **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, June 30, 2011  
[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN)

## **Man charged in Operation Thin Ice sentenced to ten years in prison for possessing child pornography**

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, a 39-year-old Minneapolis man was sentenced for possessing approximately 5,000 images of child pornography. United States District Court Chief Judge Michael J. Davis sentenced Clare Richard Skjonsby to 120 months in prison on one count of possession of child pornography. Skjonsby was charged and pleaded guilty on February 22, 2011. In his plea agreement, Skjonsby admitted that on April 2, 2009, he knowingly possessed visual depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Following today's sentencing, Michael Feinberg, Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Homeland Security Investigations ("ICE HSI"), in St. Paul, said, "The Internet has become a way of life and can be an extremely beneficial tool. However, parents must be ever vigilant and remember that predators are increasingly utilizing social networking sites and the Internet to prey on children. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to combat the exploitation of children."

This case resulted from Operation Thin Ice, a national law enforcement initiative that targeted subscribers of a hard-core child pornography website known as "Illegal.CP." During the course of their investigation, officers involved in the initiative identified Skjonsby as a subscriber to that site. As a result, on April 2, 2009, authorities executed a search warrant at his residence, where they found approximately 5,000 images of child pornography on multiple computers.

This specific case was investigated by ICE HSI. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin S. Ueland.

The U.S. Department of Justice is committed to combating the sexual exploitation of children, particularly via the Internet. For more information about these efforts, please visit the Department's Project Safe Childhood website, at [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

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