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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 22, 2011
WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN

Minneapolis man indicted for transmitting, receiving and possessing child pornography

A federal indictment, unsealed earlier today, alleges that Robert Joseph Olson, age 54, of Minneapolis, possessed images of child pornography, several of which were transmitted via his computer. The indictment, which was filed on February 15, 2011, and unsealed following Olson's initial appearance in federal court, specifically charges Olson with eight counts of transportation of child pornography, one count of receipt of child pornography, and one count of possession of child pornography.

Olson allegedly transmitted visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct on five occasions on December 4, 2007, and once each on May 25 and May 30, 2007, and May 17, 2009. In addition, on December 4, 2007, Olson allegedly received visual depictions of similar conduct, and on May 26, 2009, he possessed similar depictions.

If convicted, Olson faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each transportation count as well as the receipt charge and ten years on the possession charge. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly A. Svendsen.

The U.S. Department of Justice is committed to combating the sexual exploitation of children. For more information about these efforts, visit the Department's Project Safe Childhood website, at www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.