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# **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, May 19, 2011  
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## **Man sentenced for taking a girl to Illinois to work as a prostitute**

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, a 37-year-old man was sentenced for taking a minor female from Minnesota to Illinois in July of 2008 for the purpose of having her work as a prostitute. United States District Court Judge Ann D. Montgomery sentenced Bill Durando Baynes, no known address, to 96 months in prison on one count of transportation to engage in a commercial sex act. Baynes was charged and pleaded guilty on November 9, 2010.

In his plea agreement, Baynes admitted that in July of 2008, he took the girl, who was younger than 15, from Minnesota to Illinois with the intent that she work as a prostitute. In addition, Baynes admitted having sex with the girl while in Illinois.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Steinkamp.

The U.S. Department of Justice reports that an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked within the U.S. each year. According to the Justice Department, the Twin Cities metropolitan area is one of the 15 largest human trafficking centers in the nation.

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