



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

## **News Release**

**B. Todd Jones,  
United States Attorney**

**Jeanne F. Cooney  
Director of Community Relations  
(612) 664-5611  
email: [jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov](mailto:jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov)**

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### **Big Lake man indicted for producing child pornography**

MINNEAPOLIS—A federal indictment unsealed late Friday charges a 46-year-old Big Lake man with producing videos of child pornography. The indictment, which was filed on September 20, 2011, charges Joel Grogan Zigler with two counts of production of child pornography. The indictment was unsealed following Zigler's initial appearance in federal court.

The indictment alleges that on October 15 and 16, 2010, Zigler induced minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct and recorded it with a digital camcorder. The videos were allegedly produced in a Hibbing motel room. The videos, camcorder, and various media were seized from Zigler's residence during the execution of a search warrant.

If convicted, Zigler faces a potential maximum penalty of 30 years in prison on each count. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Hibbing Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kevin S. Ueland.

Presently, the Justice Department is funding a study concerning the correlation between involvement in child pornography and the hands-on sexual abuse of children. A 2008 study (The Butner Study) published in the Journal of Family Violence found that up to 80 percent of federal inmates incarcerated for possession, receipt, or distribution of child pornography also admitted to hands-on sexual abuse of children, ranging from touching to rape.

The U.S. Department of Justice is committed to combating the sexual exploitation of children, particularly via the Internet. In Fiscal Year 2010, 2,235 defendants pleaded guilty to federal child pornography charges, 2,222 of whom were sentenced to prison. In Fiscal Year 2009, 2,083 defendants were sentenced to prison on child pornography charges. 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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*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.*