

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New York State Man Gets 37 Months in Prison for Traveling Interstate to Have Sex with Teen Girl

(More)

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TRENTON – A New York man was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison today for crossing state lines for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual contact with a minor, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Mary L. Cooper ordered Andrew DeDona, III, 40, of Mahopac, N.Y., to surrender to the federal Bureau of Prisons on a date to be determined to begin serving his sentence. Judge Cooper also ordered DeDona to serve 15 years of supervised release, during which time his use of computers and his contact with minors will be limited.

At his plea hearing on June 28, 2006, DeDona pleaded guilty to a one-count Information, charging that, on or about Feb. 9, 2005, he knowingly and willfully traveled in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual contact with another individual.

During his plea hearing, DeDona admitted that he engaged in sexually explicit Internet instant messaging chats with an individual whom he believed to be a 14-year-old girl. In reality, the teenager was an undercover law enforcement agent.

During those chats, DeDona discussed meeting the girl and further discussed the sexual act that they would perform. DeDona further admitted that he arranged to meet this girl and her 12-year-old friend at a restaurant in New Jersey and that he intended to engage in sexual activity with both girls and that, on Feb. 9, 2005, he did drive from New York to New Jersey for the meeting.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Cooper consulted the advisory U.S. Sentence Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentenced ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are give custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of SAC Kyle Hutchins, with the investigation of the case. Christie also thanked investigators with the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Task Force, under the direction of Prosecutor John Molinelli, for their assistance in the case.

The Government is represented by Assistant United States Attorney Philip James Degnan of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Criminal Division in Newark.

Defense Attorney: Howard S. Feintuch, Esq., Jersey City

