



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian, announced that RICHARD RUSSELL, JR., age 39, of Brasher Falls, New York, was sentenced in federal district court today pursuant to his earlier pleas of guilty to child exploitation offenses.

In today's proceeding, RUSSELL was sentenced to 60 years in federal prison, that is, three consecutive 20 year sentences on each of three counts of using, persuading, inducing, enticing, and coercing minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing visual depictions of such conduct. RUSSELL had pled guilty to these offenses in April, 2010 admitting that he had produced sexually explicit images of his abuse of a fourteen year old boy in 2003, of a 10 year old boy in January 2008, and of a 9 year old boy in 2008.

RUSSELL's sentence will also include a term of lifetime supervised release, and mandatory registration as a sex offender.

RUSSELL's arrest is the result of an investigation by the New York State Police and Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Investigators in Massena, New York. RUSSELL was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lisa Fletcher as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

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