



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Northern District of New York*

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July 15, 2011

**NEWS RELEASE**

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian, announced that STEPHEN DE PROSPERO, age 37, of Rome, New York, was sentenced in federal district court today pursuant to his earlier plea of guilty to child exploitation offenses.

In today's proceeding, DE PROSPERO was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment on each of two counts of producing child pornography relating to his abuse of a severely autistic child for whom DE PROSPERO had been a care-giver. Each of those sentences were ordered to run consecutively to one another, for a total of 40 years. DE PROSPERO's sentence will also include a term of lifetime supervised release, and he will also be required to register as a sex offender.

DE PROSPERO's arrest is the result of an investigation by the New York State Police, the Oneida County District Attorney's Office - Child Advocacy Center, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. DE PROSPERO was prosecuted by the Oneida County District Attorney's Office for the sexual abuse of the child, and by the United States Attorney's Office for using the child in the production of sexually explicit images as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from 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).

DE PROSPERO was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa Fletcher, who can be reached at 448-0672.