



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 23, 2012

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ny>

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***ONONDAGA COUNTY MAN SENTENCED
FOR ENTICING 12 YEAR OLD TO TAKE SEXUALLY EXPLICIT IMAGES
AND TEXT THEM TO HIM***

Syracuse, New York —United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced that JOSHUA RICE, 27, of Syracuse, New York, a former volunteer wrestling coach, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Hon. Glenn T. Suddaby to a term of 18 years in federal prison, as a result of his earlier plea of guilty to one count of enticing a 12-year old boy to take sexually explicit images and videos of himself and text them to RICE, in exchange for the promise by RICE that there was a teenage girl interested in the child, and that he would provide explicit images of her in return. Although RICE pled guilty to his activities with one child, he admitted at the time of his plea that he had committed similar offenses with three additional minors.

In addition to his sentence of imprisonment, RICE was ordered to serve a term 25 years of supervised release, pay a fine of \$5,000, and will have to register as a sex offender.

RICE'S arrest was the result of an investigation by the New York State Police, assisted by the United States Secret Service. The joint effort is a 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/.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa Fletcher, Project Safe Childhood Coordinator for the Northern District of New York, who can be reached at 448-0672.