



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**BEACON MUSIC TEACHER PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIPT
AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and JAMES T. HAYES, JR., the Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), announced that STEPHEN W. SIKTBERG pleaded guilty today before United States Magistrate Judge LISA MARGARET SMITH in White Plains federal court to one count of receiving child pornography and one count of possessing child pornography. SIKTBERG, 32, was previously arrested in October 2009 at his Beacon, New York, residence by ICE agents.

According to the Complaint, the Indictment, and statements made during the plea and the presentment, SIKTBERG, who provided private music instruction to both children and adults, downloaded child pornography from the Internet using a peer-to-peer file-sharing program, and saved it on his computer and on CDs. SIKTBERG had saved thousands of images of child pornography and over a hundred videos. During his plea allocution, SIKTBERG admitted that he "downloaded child pornography knowing it was a crime."

Siktberg will be sentenced before United States District Judge COLLEEN MCMAHON at a date to be set. He faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years in prison, and a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense, on the receipt of child pornography charge. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, and a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense, on the possession of child pornography charge.

Mr. BHARARA thanked ICE for its work in this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney SARAH R. KRISOFF of the White Plains Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office is in charge of the prosecution.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-347-2423. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

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