

Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.
Western District of New York

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CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

ROCHESTER MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Paul Hearty, 36, of Rochester, N.Y., was arrested and charged by Criminal Complaint with possession of child pornography. Due to a prior conviction, the charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison, a maximum of 20 years, and a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who is handling the case, stated that according to the Complaint, in December 2010, New York State Police received information from the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force that an AOL user was sending child pornography to an account used by a particular Internet Protocol address. The subscriber was identified as Hearty, residing on Alexander Street in Rochester. New York State Police executed a search warrant in April 2011 and images of child pornography were found on the defendant's cellular phone.

In 2005, Hearty was convicted in Monroe County of the possession of an obscene sexual performance by a child less than 16 years old and was required to register as a sex offender.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), 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 to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

The Criminal Complaint is the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero, the New York State Police Computer Crimes Unit under the direction of Captain Frank Pace and the Monroe County District Attorney's Office under the direction of Sandra Doorley.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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