

# Department of Justice

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

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## **ROCHESTER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Steven Niles, 28, of Rochester, N.Y., pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography before U.S. District Court Judge Charles J. Siragusa. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, and supervised release for life.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig R. Gestring, who is handling the case, stated that Niles was identified by federal agents conducting an undercover child pornography investigation. They executed a search warrant at the defendant's Battle Green Drive residence and seized multiple digital items, including a laptop, desktop computer, cell phone and an iPad which contained images and movies depicting children as young as infants being brutally raped. Some of the images and movies also contained sado-masochistic material or depictions of violence. The defendant possessed over 12,000 such images.

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](http://www.projectsafefchildhood.gov).

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent In Charge James C. Spero.

Sentencing is scheduled for 2:00 pm on November 16, 2012 before Judge Siragusa.

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