

# Department of Justice

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

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
APRIL 2, 2012  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw)

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

## **TUSCARORA TOWN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Bert Tohafjian, 38, of Tuscarora Town, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Marian W. Payson, to possession of child pornography. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa J. Miller, who handled the case, stated that the defendant came to the attention of agents with the Department of Homeland Security during an undercover operation in an online peer-to-peer file sharing program. Tohafjian was found to possess more than 600 images of child pornography. Some of the images depicted pubescent children under the age of 12. Other images included depictions of violence.

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.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.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 will be scheduled by U.S. District Court Judge David G. Larimer.

#####