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**FORMER PHILADELPHIA MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN FIVE YEARS
FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

PHILADELPHIA - Charles Hess, Jr., 63, of Oley, was sentenced today to 68 months in prison for knowingly possessing child pornography between May 2006 and February 5, 2009 on a computer hard drive and on six separate CD/DVD-Roms, announced United States Attorney Michael L. Levy.

Hess was found to be in possession of more than more 600 pornographic images and 28 pornographic video files of children, including some which depicted children under the age of 12 and some which depicted sadistic or masochistic conduct, or other depictions of violence. Hess resigned from his job in February 2009, a day after a search was conducted at his home in Philadelphia where he was living at the time.

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.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ewald Zittlau.

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