



U.S. Department of Justice

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CHILD PREDATOR SENTENCED

Steven Tadlock, 45, of Pennsylvania, was sentenced today to 72 months in prison for child pornography and obstruction of justice charges, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. Tadlock distributed images on-line to other users and engaged in chats with other users about how to groom children. He also destroyed a computer external hard drive to obstruct the investigation.

“With this sentence, another child predator has been taken off the streets,” said Memeger. “We will continue to work with our investigative partners to aggressively pursue those who exploit and harm children to serve their own purposes.”

“Every time a sexually explicit image of a minor is produced, transmitted, or viewed, a child is victimized,” said ICE Special Agent-in-Charge John P. Kelleghan of Homeland Security Investigations in Philadelphia. “HSI will continue to pursue those individuals who exploit children, to include those who expect the shield of anonymity to protect them in cyberspace.”

This investigation is part of Project Safe Childhood and Operation Predator. Through Project Safe Childhood, the Department of Justice is seeking to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse by combining 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. ICE's Operation Predator is a nationwide initiative to identify, investigate and arrest those who sexually exploit children. As part of Operation Predator, 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>.

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations, with significant assistance from the Pennsylvania State Police. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Denise S. Wolf.

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