



Department of Justice

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FITCHBURG MAN SENTENCED TO 90 MONTHS ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Gregory Hammond, 43, Fitchburg, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge William M. Conley to 90 months in prison followed by a 20-year term of supervised release, for using the Internet to trade images and movies of children being sexually exploited and abused. Hammond pleaded guilty to this charge on August 12, 2010.

The investigation revealed that in July and August 2009, Hammond was using an Internet website to trade child pornography with other individuals and to communicate with those individuals. Based on that information, a federal search warrant was executed at the defendant's home in Fitchburg on February 24, 2010. During the search, law enforcement officers discovered Hammond's collection of nearly 1000 pictures and 140 movies depicting children ranging in age from six months to fourteen years old engaged in sexually explicit conduct, many with adult males perpetrating the abuse.

Hammond admitted that he had been active in chat rooms and on websites trading child pornography since 2006. Hammond suggested that stress in his life led to his addiction to alcohol and pornography in general, which eventually led to an addiction to child pornography.

In sentencing Hammond, Judge Conley remarked that this case was a tragedy for everyone involved. Judge Conley pointed out that many people deal with chronic and extreme stress in their lives, but still do not fall into the well of child pornography. In addition, Judge Conley found it impossible to understand how as a dad, Hammond could look at the images of the children being abused and see their expressions and haunted looks, yet continue to trade and view these images for years.

Hammond was taken into custody immediately following sentencing.

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 U.S. 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 charges against Gregory Hammond were the result of an investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Homeland Security Investigations and the Fitchburg Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

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