



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Texas

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HOUSTON AREA MAN CHARGED FEDERALLY FOR DISTRIBUTING AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(HOUSTON) A Houston area man, indicted for distributing and possessing child pornography, has been arrested, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today.

Robert Wayne Lockhart, 34, of Houston, TX, was arrested early this morning at his Houston area residence by special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and is expected to appear before a United States Magistrate Judge in Houston later today. The United States will request Lockhart be temporarily detained pending a hearing on the government's motion to hold him without bond pending trial on the federal child pornography charges.

The indictment, returned by federal grand jury on February 21, 2007, accuses Lockhart of distributing child pornography on July 13, 2005, and possessing on a computer in January 2006 more than 600 images of child pornography including images depicting prepubescent children, some being just infants, with which adult men engaged in sexual conduct. The investigation leading to the criminal charges against Lockhart was conducted by special agents of the Houston office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Lockhart faces a statutory minimum sentence of five (5) years and a maximum of twenty (20) years imprisonment if convicted of distributing child pornography. The possession of child pornography charge carries a maximum statutory penalty of ten (10) years imprisonment, and up to a life term of supervised release upon conviction. Lockhart could also be fined a maximum of \$250,000 if convicted of either count.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, 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 identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Richard Magness.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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