



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

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Maryland Man Arrested in Falls Church on Child Exploitation Charges

(Alexandria, VA) – Willard Temple Acker, age 53, of Edgewater, Maryland, was arrested today and a criminal complaint was filed charging him with enticement of a minor and traveling across state lines to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor, both in violation of federal law. The United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia; Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington Field Office; and the Fairfax County Police Department made the announcement following Acker's initial appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Barry R. Poretz.

According to court documents and court proceedings today, Acker began an instant message chat yesterday with a person whom he believed to be a thirteen-year-old girl from Fairfax, Virginia. In fact, Acker was communicating with an undercover FBI agent. In an on-line chat running over two days, Acker engaged the fictitious girl in sexually explicit discussions and arranged to travel from his home in Maryland to Falls Church, Virginia, to meet the girl for illicit conduct.

Acker was apprehended upon his arrival at the designated meeting place in Falls Church, Virginia. At today's court hearing, Acker was ordered to be detained pending a preliminary hearing and detention hearing to be held on February 28, 2007.

The investigation was conducted by the FBI and Innocent Images Initiative Task Force members from the Fairfax County Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Edward McAndrew, who is on detail from the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department of Justice.

Criminal complaints are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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