



Department of Justice

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MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BILLINGS – Jon Arnold Chaussee, a 50-year-old resident of Missoula, was sentenced today to a term of 24 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to possession of child pornography. Chaussee was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$100, forfeit his computer equipment and will be under supervision for 10 years.

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial the following:

In July 2007, the Missoula Police Department was advised that a computer belonging to Chaussee had been brought to a local computer store for repair. While backing up the information on the computer, the computer technician found a video containing child pornography. A search warrant for the computer was issued and the computer seized. Found during forensic examination were a large amount of child pornography videos containing prepubescent children engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

When questioned, Chaussee first blamed an unknown family member, but then admitted that he had received the images and movies of child pornography via the internet and his home computer. Forensic evidence also shows that Chaussee burned some of the movies to a CD from the computer prior to having it taken in for repairs.

The investigation was a cooperative effort between the Missoula Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States 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/.

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