



# Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

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## *Text Messages Lead to Child Pornography Conviction*

**BISMARCK** - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on July 13, 2009, **Roy F. Ressler**, 39, of Mandan, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of receipt of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors. **Ressler** pleaded guilty to the charge on April 27, 2009.

Judge Hovland sentenced **Ressler** to serve five years in federal prison, to be followed by five years of supervised release. **Ressler** was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund and to register as a sex offender.

In September 2007 parents of a juvenile female in University Heights, Ohio, reported to law enforcement that their juvenile daughter was receiving sexually explicit text messages on her cell phone. Investigators viewed the text messages and initiated a text communication with **Ressler** in Mandan. **Ressler**, believing he was texting the juvenile female, tried to convince her to run away from home and travel to Fargo, ND, where he would pick her up. The investigation was reported to the Mandan Police Department and a search warrant was obtained for **Ressler's** residence and computer.

The search uncovered sexually explicit pictures of the juvenile female on **Ressler's** computer. The juvenile female did not travel to North Dakota.

The case was investigated by the Mandan Police Department, Morton County State's Attorney and University Heights Police Department, University Heights, Ohio.

Assistant United States Attorney Gary Delorme prosecuted the case.

This case was brought as a part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States 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](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

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