



Department of Justice

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FORMER SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

DAYTON – William Armstrong, 56, of Springfield, pleaded guilty in United States District Court here to one count of possession of child pornography for having approximately 412 images on his personal computer depicting children under the age of 18 engaged in sexually explicit conduct. He faces a possible maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment and will be required to be under court supervision for at least five years after he serves any prison time. Federal law will also require him to register as a sex offender.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Brian Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in Detroit, and Clark County Prosecuting Attorney Steve Schumaker announced the plea entered today before United States District Judge Walter H. Rice.

Federal agents and local officers participating in an ICE task force searched Armstrong's home in April 2008 where they found a computer and storage media containing approximately 412 images of child pornography. Armstrong, who at the time was a teacher at Springfield North High School, had purchased the images over the Internet from websites known to sell memberships that allowed members to browse and download sexually explicit images of children.

"All the images depicted children who were younger than high school age," Lockhart said. "People who purchase child pornography create a market for those who sexually exploit children for commercial purposes."

"This case is particularly troubling because of the defendant's position of trust with young people, but it underscores ICE's commitment to working with our law enforcement partners to search out predators who sexually exploit innocent children," said Brian Moskowitz, special agent in charge of the ICE office of investigations in Michigan and Ohio. "Some predators mistakenly believe the anonymity of cyberspace shields them from scrutiny; in fact, their use of computers and the Internet have given us new tools in our enforcement efforts to protect children."

Agents arrested Armstrong after a grand jury indicted him in March 2009 following a forensic examination of the computer and storage equipment seized from his house. He was placed on house arrest with electronic monitoring and prohibited from owning or using a computer, or having contact with anyone under age 18.

Judge Rice set Armstrong's sentencing date for September 3, 2009.

This case was brought as 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.

Lockhart commended the investigation by ICE agents and task force officers from the Springfield Police Department, Dayton Police Department, Lebanon Police Department, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Clemmens, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Andy Wilson with the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, who prosecuted the case.

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