



Department of Justice

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KOUNTZE MAN GUILTY OF SOLICITING SEX FROM A MINOR

Former Firefighter Nabbed in Online Undercover Operation

BEAUMONT TX – United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 52-year-old Kountze man has pleaded guilty to soliciting sex from an underage child.

ROB ROY ROBINSON pleaded guilty to one count of Coercion and Enticement before United States District Judge Marcia Crone today. Robinson, a former Beaumont firefighter, faces not less than ten years in federal prison and not more than life, and a fine up to \$250,000 at sentencing. A sentencing date has not been set.

According to court documents, Robinson was arrested on October 25, 2006 in Beaumont after he arranged to meet and sexually assault someone he believed would be a 13-year-old girl. The arrest was part of a two-week undercover operation conducted by the Texas Attorney General's Cyber Crimes Unit and the Beaumont Police Department. The sting operation yielded the arrests and indictments of three alleged child sex predators in Jefferson County, each of whom allegedly arranged to meet and sexually assault what they believed to be 13-year-old children they had met online. The online profiles were actually those of undercover investigators with the Texas Attorney General's office.

"Child predator sting operations have proven to be a successful way to protect our children," said U.S. Attorney Orwig. "This would not be possible without the cooperative efforts of local, state and federal agencies working together to ensure our children can grow up in a safe environment."

"Protecting Texas children is our top priority," Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said. "Law enforcement must continue to crack down aggressively on criminals who use the Internet to prey upon young Texans. We are very grateful to U.S. Attorney Matt Orwig, Jefferson County District Attorney Tom Maness, the Beaumont Police Department and the U.S. Marshal's Office for their commitment to collaboration and strict law enforcement."

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC). 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 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 information about Project Safe Childhood, visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov/.

In Texas, investigative assistance in these matters is provided by the Texas Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). On May 18, 2006, Attorney General Abbott's Cyber Crimes Unit was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention to establish an ICAC Task Force. The Texas Attorney General's ICAC Task Force is one of almost 50 federally funded task forces in the country dedicated to this issue.

Special Assistant United States Attorney Sarah Wannarka and Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Hobbs are prosecuting this case.

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