



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Erik C. Peterson
Western District of Wisconsin

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CONTACT: MYRA LONGFIELD
PHONE: (608) 264-5158

FEDERAL GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS CHARGING SIX WITH CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSES

Madison, Wisconsin – Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that a federal grand jury sitting in Madison returned six separate indictments yesterday charging six individuals with offenses related to the possession and distribution of child pornography. These indictments are being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales 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/.

The individuals indicted and the charges they face are described below:

Michael J. Pitzrick, 26, of Menomonie, Wisconsin, is charged in a two-count indictment with attempting to receive visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and possessing a computer hard drive and CDs containing visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment alleges that on March 15, 2005, Pitzrick placed an order via computer to obtain five movies featuring minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, for approximately \$100.

If convicted, Pitzrick faces a maximum penalty on the first count of not less than five nor more than 20 years in federal prison, and 10 years on the second count. In addition, he faces the possibility of lifetime supervised release following any period of incarceration. The charges against Pitzrick are the result of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Przybylinski Finn.

Ronald R. Shankey, 41, of Hudson, Wisconsin, is charged in a two-count indictment with distributing a visual depiction of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and possessing a computer hard drive containing such visual depictions. The indictment alleges that on August 30, 2006, Shankey emailed a sexually explicit image of a minor to another individual.

If convicted, Shankey faces a maximum penalty on the first count of not less than five nor more than 20 years in federal prison, and 10 years on the second count. In addition, he faces the possibility of lifetime supervised release following any period of incarceration. The charges against Shankey are the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department, and the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense - Defense Criminal Investigative Service. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Przybylinski Finn.

Ralph Shannon, 56, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is charged with possessing two computer hard drives containing visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment alleges that Shannon possessed these computer hard drives on March 24, 2005.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison, and the possibility of lifetime supervised release after any period of incarceration. The charges against Shannon are the result of an investigation by the Department of Homeland Security-Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Wisconsin Department of Justice-Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Przybylinski Finn.

Terry Hansen, 30, of Wausau, Wisconsin, is charged in a two-count indictment with distributing visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and possessing a computer hard drive containing such visual depictions. The indictment alleges that on May 4, 2003, Hansen uploaded a file via computer to the Internet and the file contained images of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of on the first count of not less than five nor more than 20 years in federal prison, and 10 years on the second count. In addition, he faces the possibility of lifetime supervised release following any period of incarceration. The charges against Hansen are the result of an investigation by the Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Przybylinski Finn.

Gary R. Dausey, 58, of Tomah, Wisconsin, is charged with possessing computer floppy disks and a computer hard drive containing video depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment alleges that Dausey possessed the floppy disks and the computer hard drive on December 9, 2005.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison, and the possibility of lifetime supervised release following any period of incarceration. The charge against Dausey is the result of an investigation by the La Crosse Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

Jason Shrake, 34, of Tomah, Wisconsin, is charged in a two-count superseding indictment with transporting by computer on March 20, 2005, visual depictions of a minor

engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and with possessing a CD-R and a computer hard drive containing such visual depictions.

If convicted, Shrake faces a maximum penalty on the first count of not less than five nor more than 20 years in federal prison, and 10 years on the second count. In addition, he faces the possibility of lifetime supervised release following any period of incarceration. The charge against Shrake is the result of an investigation by Tomah Police Department and the La Crosse Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

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