



Department of Justice

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STRUM MAN SENTENCED FOR PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that James Beier, 31, of Strum, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 30 years in prison, the maximum term available, for producing a sexually explicit video of a young boy. Beier pleaded guilty to this charge on June 22, 2006.

On November 7, 2005, officers executed a federal search warrant at Beier's apartment in Strum, searching for child pornography. Officers found tapes and DVDs depicting young boys in sexually explicit poses that appeared to have been taped by Beier in his apartment. Beier was immediately arrested and charged in a criminal complaint. Further investigation revealed that Beier had sexual contact with a number of young boys who lived in or around his neighborhood. Beier pleaded guilty to making a sexually explicit video of a ten-year-old boy who was left in Beier's care.

Judge Shabaz sentenced Beier to the statutory maximum sentence of 30 years, stating that a long sentence was necessary to protect children, because that is what these sentences are all about. Judge Shabaz also sentenced Beier to a lifetime of supervision upon his release from prison.

This case is 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 charges against Beier were the result of an investigation conducted by the Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Trempeleau County Sheriff's Office, and the Strum Police Department. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Przybylinski Finn.

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