



Department of Justice

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Western District of Wisconsin

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EAU CLAIRE MAN INDICTED FOR DISTRIBUTION AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Madison, Wisconsin -- A federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin, sitting in Madison, returned the following indictments yesterday. You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Jody W. Lowe, 40, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is charged with distributing a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct and with knowingly possessing a CD-Rom containing multiple depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment alleges that the distribution occurred on September 22, 2005 and the possession occurred on February 8, 2006.

If convicted, he faces a mandatory minimum penalty of five years and a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison on the distribution count, and 10 years in prison on the possession count. This matter was investigated by the Eau Claire Police Department and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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/.

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