



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William W. Mercer  
District of Montana

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CONTACT: JESSICA T. FEHR  
PHONE: (406) 247-4637  
FAX: (406) 657-6055

## **MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

BILLINGS – Michael Paul Schmitz, a resident of Lambert, was sentenced today to a term of 108 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to receipt and possession of child pornography. Schmitz was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$200 and will be under supervision for life.

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial the following:

In January of 2006, a credit card belonging to Schmitz of Lambert was used to pay for a subscription to an illegal child pornography website.

On October 19, 2006, agents with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducted an interview of Schmitz at his residence in Lambert. When questioned, Schmitz admitted his role in receiving and possessing child pornography via the Internet, using approximately fifteen to twenty paid subscriptions to the child pornography websites. A computer Schmitz admitted he used to receive and possess child pornography was seized. Forensic analysis of Schmitz's computer revealed numerous image files and movies containing images of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice 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/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/).

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