



Department of Justice

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FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS THREE FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSES

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that federal grand jury sitting in Madison returned three indictments today charging three individuals with offenses related to the manufacture and possession of child pornography. These cases have been brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. 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 U.S. 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:

Gregory Blum, 51, of Monroe, Wisconsin, is charged with two counts of manufacturing child pornography. The indictment alleges that on July 29 and July 30, 2006, Blum coerced a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing visual depictions of such conduct.

If convicted, Blum faces a maximum penalty of 30 years, and not less than 15 years, in federal prison on each count. The charges against him are the result of an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Meredith P. Duchemin.

Scott Prestage, 43, of Madison, Wisconsin, is charged with possession of a CD-R and a computer hard drive containing video depictions of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment alleges that he possessed these on June 2, 2006.

If convicted, Prestage faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. The charge against him is the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation, and Madison Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth

Altman.

Jason W. De Almeida, 32, of Madison, Wisconsin, is charged with possession of a computer hard drive containing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment alleges that he possessed this on March 7, 2007.

If convicted, De Almeida faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. The charge against him is the result of an investigation by 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.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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