



# PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *Bristol, Connecticut, Resident Entered Guilty Plea to Enticement of a Minor*

MARTINSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA — A 49 year old Bristol, Connecticut, resident entered a plea of guilty on January 8, 2008, in United States District Court in Martinsburg before Magistrate Judge David J. Joel.

United States Attorney Sharon L. Potter announced that JOHN E. HARGROVE entered a plea of guilty to one count of an Indictment charging him with knowingly using the internet to entice an individual who had not reached the age of 18 to engage in sexual activity from September 23, 2006, to January 4, 2007, near Romney, Hampshire County, West Virginia.

HARGROVE, who is currently in custody pending sentencing, faces a maximum exposure of life imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David J. Perri. The case was investigated by the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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

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