



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Karin J. Immergut
District of Oregon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, May 19, 2009
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CONTACT:
AUSA Gary Sussman 503-727-1030 or
Gerri Badden 503-727-1033

Salem Man Sentenced in Child Pornography Case

Portland, Ore. – A registered sex offender from the Salem area was sentenced this morning in federal court in Portland following his plea of guilty to possessing child pornography. U.S. District Judge Garr M. King sentenced Christopher David Johnson, 44, of Salem, to 87 months in prison, followed by a ten-year term of supervised release. Johnson, who is on pretrial release, was ordered to surrender to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to begin serving his sentence on July 2, 2009.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) agents determined that Johnson had repeatedly paid for subscription access to commercial child pornography Internet web sites. Agents executed a search warrant at Johnson’s Salem apartment in November 2007. Numerous still images and video clips depicting child pornography were found on Johnson’s computer. At the time, Johnson was on bench probation following a 2004 California state child pornography conviction. He was registered with the Oregon State Police as a sex offender.

In imposing the sentence, Judge King told Johnson that “public policy strongly objects” to child pornography offenses. Judge King noted that there are “many, many victims” in child pornography offenses, reminded Johnson that he knew that he would go to prison if he were caught with child pornography, and described Johnson’s conduct as selfish and self-indulgent. Johnson apologized for “this whole ugly mess” and the effect it has had on his family.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys’ Offices and the Criminal Division’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), 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 to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Gary Sussman, Project Safe Childhood Coordinator for the District of Oregon.

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