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MARYSVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 17 ½ YEARS IN PRISON FOR DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JEFFREY SCOTT CLOWARD, 29, of Marysville, California was sentenced today by United States District Judge Morrison C. England, Jr., to 17 ½ years in federal prison, to be followed by a lifetime term of supervised release. The defendant entered a guilty plea on April 10, 2008, to charges of distribution of visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct and possession of one or more matters containing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service which was undertaken as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC). PSC is a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children, and to reduce the number of Internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies and organizations to increase law enforcement presence on the Internet, and to educate the public about safe Internet use, thereby reducing the risk that children might fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafechildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Carolyn K. Delaney and Camil Skipper, who prosecuted the case, CLOWARD admitted during his guilty plea that he had numerous online conversations with a person he believed to be a 14-year-old girl. On several occasions CLOWARD emailed the “girl,” actually an undercover police officer, images of prepubescent females engaged in sexually explicit conduct. When federal agents executed a search warrant at CLOWARD’s home in February 2007, they discovered that his computer and computer storage media contained numerous images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. CLOWARD admitted to the police that he had communicated with the “girl,” that he regularly received and distributed child pornography over the Internet, and that he had had sexual fantasies about children since his teens.

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