



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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TWO ARRESTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner announced the indictments of two Sacramento area men on charges of child pornography. Thomas Neal, 41, of Roseville, was arrested yesterday and charged with possessing and receiving child pornographic images, and Jeffery Rogers, 59, of Shingle Springs, was arrested today for possessing child pornography.

Neal's case is the product of an investigation by agents from the Sacramento office of ICE Homeland Security Investigations, and Rogers was investigated by the Sacramento Valley High Tech Crimes Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney Laurel White is prosecuting the cases.

According to the indictment against Neal, in February 2010, Neal knowingly possessed and accessed child pornography. The indictment further alleges in two counts that he received such images in June and October of 2009. The government is also seeking forfeiture of the computers, hard drives, and other electronic storage devices that Neal is alleged to have used to possess and receive the child pornography.

According to the indictment against Rogers, in October 2009, Rogers possessed a computer hard drive and computer disks that contained child pornography. The government is seeking the forfeiture of the computer equipment and electronic storage media that Rogers is alleged to have used to possess his child pornography.

Neal was arraigned yesterday, pleaded not guilty, and was released on a \$24,000 bond. Rogers is scheduled to be arraigned today at 2:00 p.m.

The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of possession of child pornography is 10 years in prison. The receipt charges each carry a five-year mandatory minimum to a 20-year maximum term in prison. Both charges carry a five-year to possible life term of supervised release and a maximum fine of \$250,000 per count. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory sentencing factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a nationwide initiative by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, PSC mobilizes federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information, visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov or call the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

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