



Department of Justice

District of Arizona

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 16, 2008
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SAHUARITA, ARIZ. MAN CHARGED WITH RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY THROUGH THE U.S. MAIL

TUCSON, Ariz. – William Paul Rigli, 40, of Sahuarita, Ariz., was arrested in Sahuarita, Ariz. on January 8, 2008, on charges of Receipt of Child Pornography. He appeared in federal court for an initial appearance on January 9, 2008. The defendant had detention hearings on Friday, January 11 and Monday, January 14, 2008, and Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Marshall ordered Rigli detained pending further proceedings.

In 2007, while acting in an undercover capacity, inspectors from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service communicated via the U.S. mail with an individual who had expressed an interest in videos of minors engaged in sexual activity. That individual, identified as William Paul Rigli, ordered and paid for 13 videos (DVD's) depicting the graphic sexual abuse of minors. He was arrested on January 8, 2008, outside the post office in Sahuarita, Ariz. after picking up the package containing the videos he had ordered and paid for.

Further investigation revealed that Rigli was a level II registered sex offender in Arizona, having been required to register as a sex offender based upon his convictions on April 5, 1991, for nine felony counts in Pima County (Ariz.) Superior Court, case number 30954. Those charges relate to Furnishing Obscene/Harmful Materials to Minors, Attempted Sexual Conduct with a Person Under 15, and Public Sexual Indecency.

The facts underlying the offense involve the defendant (at the age of 23) engaged in oral sex with two minor males, ages 10 and 13 in March 1990. The defendant was arrested on those charges in El Paso, Texas, where he had moved while the allegations were being investigated.

Based upon those convictions, the defendant was sentenced to 10 years of probation to commence on May 3, 1991. In 1999, the defendant violated his conditions of probation. Based on a finding that the defendant had violated his probation six different ways, all of which concerned contact with a minor or minors and the possession of sexually stimulating material, the defendant's probation was revoked and he was sentenced to 10 years in custody on April 6, 1999. The defendant was released from custody on or about September 16, 2005.

A conviction for Receipt of Child Pornography for someone with a prior conviction involving the sexual abuse of a minor carries a mandatory minimum of 15 years and a maximum penalty of 40 years, a \$2 million fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, a District Court Judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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 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 investigation in this case was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Tucson Police Department and the Sahuarita, Ariz. Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: Mag. No. 08-06020

RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-004(Rigli)

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