



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LOCAL MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

St. Louis, MO: Gary J. Thebeau was sentenced to 63 months in prison for possession of Child pornography, Acting United States Attorney Michael W. Reap, announced today.

Thebeau, 45, Gillespie, IL, formerly of Warrenton, MO, pleaded guilty in February to one felony count of possession of child pornography. In 2007, Thebeau downloaded child pornography to a laptop computer he had previously rented from Aaron's Rental Center in O'Fallon, Missouri.

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.

Reap commended the work on the case by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department, the O'Fallon Police Department, and Assistant United States Attorney Reginald Harris, who handled the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.