



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway
Eastern District of Missouri

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CONTACT: Jan Diltz
PHONE: (314) 539-7719
FAX: (314) 539-2309

ST. PETERS MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ST. LOUIS, Missouri - Brian Buehrle was sentenced to 88 months in prison for possession of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway, of the Eastern District of Missouri announced today.

“This office will use creative law enforcement techniques to find and prosecute on-line child predators,” said Hanaway. “Mr. Buehrle possessed large amounts of images of children engaged in sex acts. We will continue to find and prosecute people who create a demand for these images.”

On June 26, 2006, officers from the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department deployed a program that identifies computers distributing child pornography over the internet. The program showed that a computer used by Buehrle was sharing a file that contained child pornography.

A subsequent search of Buehrle's computer revealed at least 500 graphic images and 157 video files of child pornography, many of which had been downloaded from the Internet.

Buehrle, 23, Park Charles North, St. Peters, Missouri, pled guilty last February to one felony count of possession of child pornography, and appeared today for sentencing before United States District Judge Henry E. Autrey.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States 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.projectsafchildhood.gov/.

Hanaway commended the work on the case by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the St. Charles County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department, the Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Regional Computer Crimes Education and Enforcement Group, and Assistant United States Attorney Tiffany Becker, who

handled the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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