



Department of Justice

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MADISON MAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Stephen Wainwright, 59, of Madison, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 151 months in prison, to be followed by lifetime supervised release, for distributing child pornography.

On October 23, 2005, officers from the Madison Police Department and agents from the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement executed a search warrant at Wainwright's residence as part of Operation Predator, a national initiative to capture individuals using the internet to collect and distribute child pornography. A forensic analysis of Wainwright's computer revealed that he distributed child pornography to another person through an AOL email account on May 11, 2004.

At sentencing, Judge Shabaz stated that the defendant deserved a long prison term due to the large volume of child pornographic images on his computer and in order to protect the community. The court also noted that Wainwright had a prior conviction for criminal sexual abuse of a minor in 1987.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales launched 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.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

The charges against Wainwright were the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison Police Department and the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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