



U. S. Department of Justice

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U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INTENSIFIES EFFORTS TO COMBAT CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Following Attorney General Eric Holder's recent announcement of the Department of Justice's first National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, Pamela C. Marsh, the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida, warned of the increasing threat of online crimes against children and reaffirmed the District's commitment to combat this epidemic through increased prosecutions and improved public awareness and education.

A threat assessment conducted in support of the National Strategy has revealed a disturbing increase in the dangers facing children from child pornography, online enticement, child sex tourism, sexual exploitation, and commercial sexual exploitation. UNICEF estimates there are now over 4 million websites featuring sexually exploited children, with 200 new images of child pornography being circulated every day. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Cybertipline has received nearly one million complaints of child pornography, child prostitution, child sex tourism, online enticement of children for sexual acts, and child sexual molestation. In addition, the Child Identification Program has reviewed over 35 million images and videos in attempts to identify child victims.

The Department of Justice responded to the seriousness of this growing problem in 2006, by initiating Project Safe Childhood. The goal of Project Safe Childhood is to combat child exploitation through coordinated law enforcement efforts, community action, education and public awareness. The Project has provided funding for Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Forces throughout the country, including in the Northern District of Florida. With the help of law enforcement agencies affiliated with the North Florida ICAC Task Force, federal prosecutors within the Northern District of Florida have opened 44 Project Safe Childhood matters since March 2007.

"Although we've made meaningful progress in protecting children across the country, and although we've brought a record number of offenders to justice in recent years, it is time to renew our commitment to this work. It is time to intensify our efforts," said Attorney General Eric Holder. "This new strategy provides the roadmap necessary to do just that – to streamline our education, prevention and prosecution activities; to improve information sharing and collaboration; and to make the most effective use of limited resources."

“Vigorously prosecuting and investigating these cases is only one aspect of what must be undertaken to fully and efficiently combat child exploitation,” explained U.S. Attorney Marsh. “Advancements in technology have made it easier for predators to target and victimize our children. An integral part of prevention is raising public awareness of the crimes, methods, and offenders who are committing these crimes. That is why the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Florida is collaborating with local and state law enforcement agencies, to provide a better and more uniform message concerning how to prevent the online exploitation of children.”

As part of its outreach efforts in Northern Florida, federal prosecutors from the United States Attorney’s Office team up with members of the ICAC Task Force to give internet safety presentations to victim advocates, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, school board members, and other city and state officials. These presentations are now a part of the Florida Bar Speaker’s Bureau curriculum. The Office has also actively promoted and facilitated the creation of internet safety pages on websites for local law enforcement agencies and community groups. In December 2010, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and all three Florida ICAC Task Forces will provide statewide training for prosecutors, investigators, and forensic examiners to educate and prepare them for complex cases involving technology and internet crimes against children.

For more information regarding the National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, please visit: www.projectsafchildhood.gov/docs/natstrategyreport.pdf. The following page contains a table of different websites that offer informative and up-to-date material regarding internet safety for parents, educators, and children.

Project Safe Childhood Internet Resources

Amber Alert	www.amberalert.gov
ChildSafeNet	www.childsafenet.org
Crimes Against Children Research Center (UNH)	www.unh.edu/ccrc
CyberTipLine	www.cybertipline.com
FBI Innocent Images National Initiative	www.fbi.gov/innocent.htm
FDLE Child Safety Information	www.fdle.state.fl.us/FC3/childsafety.html
Florida Attorney General's Child Safety Information	myfloridalegal.com/pages.nsf/Main/7D740D1B08663B0C852570530054B255
Florida Sexual Offenders & Predators Website	offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage.do
Florida State Attorney's Office, 2 nd Judicial Circuit	www.co.leon.fl.us/statty/index.htm
Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program	www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/ProgSummary.asp?pi=3
iKeepSafe	www.ikeepsafe.org
I-Safe America	www.isafe.org
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children	www.ncmec.org
Nation Sex Offender Public Website	www.nsopr.gov/
NetSmartz	www.netsmartz.org
Project Safe Childhood	www.projectsafechildhood.gov
Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention	www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Operation Predator	www.ice.gov/pi/news/factsheets/operationpredator.htm
Web Wise Kids	www.wiredwithwisdom.org

