



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

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Milnor Man Pleads Guilty to Possessing Child Pornography

FARGO - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on August 29, 2008, **Shane M. Knudsvig**, 38, of Milnor, North Dakota, pleaded guilty before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson to a charge of possession of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

The case arose out of an investigation conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Cyber Crime Unit into the operation of a commercial child pornography site. The investigation revealed that individual customers of the site paid a subscription fee of \$79.95 which provided the customer access to a secure website from which the customer could download images of child pornography for a period of one month. One such customer identified during the investigation was **Shane Knudsvig**.

That information was provided to local ICE agents, and they developed more information on **Knudsvig** which led to the issuance of a federal search warrant executed by ICE agents at **Knudsvig's** Milnor, North Dakota, residence on October 2, 2007. At that time the agents seized **Knudsvig's** computer and numerous CD-ROMS. **Knudsvig** admitted to agents and again in court to subscribing to several commercial child

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pornography sites, and having downloaded thousands of images of child pornography from them, some of which involved pre-pubescent minors.

Judge Erickson scheduled **Knudsvig's** sentencing for November 7, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in United States District Court, Fargo, and ordered the completion of a presentence investigation report.

Knudsvig faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 10 years, a maximum fine of \$250,000, as well as a period of supervised release following any imprisonment.

Knudsvig will also be required to register as a sex offender.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse launched in February 2006. 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.projectsafefchildhood.gov/

The case is being prosecuted by First Assistant United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim.

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