



Department of Justice

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WISCONSIN MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

MADISON, WISCONSIN - Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that a federal grand jury sitting in Madison returned an indictment today charging Gary Prideaux-Wentz, 56, of New Glarus, Wisconsin, with possessing compact discs which contained visual depictions involving the use of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment alleges that he possessed the compact discs on February 2, 2006.

This case has been 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 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.projectsafechildhood.gov.

If convicted, Prideaux-Wentz faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. The charge against him is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Przybylinski Finn.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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