



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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## **Former Petersburg Dentist Sentenced to 90 Months of Prison for Receipt of Child Pornography**

**(Richmond, Virginia)** – William Marshall Ballance, a 61-year-old dentist from Petersburg, was sentenced today to 90 months in federal prison, and five years of supervised release, following his conviction for knowing receipt of child pornography. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and William Reid, Special Agent in Charge, Washington DC/Virginia, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), made the announcement after sentencing by United States District Judge Henry E. Hudson.

Ballance waived indictment and pled guilty on November 20, 2007, following his arrest on child pornography charges on October 9, 2007. He came to the attention of law enforcement as a result of a nationwide child pornography investigation known as "Project Flicker," that was spearheaded by ICE. In April 2006, ICE's Cyber Crimes Center (C3), Child Exploitation Section (CES) initiated an investigation into a criminal organization operating/controlling numerous commercial child exploitation websites. The investigation has revealed that the same criminal organization is operating in excess of 200 different commercial child exploitation websites. Additionally, the organization utilizes various PayPal accounts to process the payments for access to the member-restricted websites. PayPal is an e-commerce business allowing payments and money transfers to be made through the Internet. It serves as an electronic alternative to traditional paper methods such as checks and money orders.

Evidence obtained by law enforcement revealed that on January 10, 2007, Ballance made a payment to a PayPal account in the amount of \$79.95 for access to a member-restricted website identified as SickCRPackage v5.06 Build 3638, known as "Sick Child Room." ICE investigators determined that this member-restricted website contained several separate sections where child pornography was available for viewing and/or downloading. ICE undercover investigators counted as many as 150 video files and 20,000 image files in these sections. The video and

image files depicted prepubescent female minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The files included oral, anal and vaginal intercourse between prepubescent minors and adult males.

Based in part upon the above information, coupled with evidence indicating that the defendant made his PayPal transaction from a computer located at his home in Petersburg, investigators obtained a federal search warrant for the defendant's home and computer, which they executed on September 28, 2007. During the search, multiple items were recovered, including a file folder box containing over 380 printed pages of photos depicting prepubescent girls engaged in sexually explicit activity. These paper printouts were organized in file folders labeled by subject, including, but not limited to, "Pre-Teen," "Lolitas," and three separate folders entitled "PTHC CP" (*i.e.*, "Pre-Teen Hard Core Child Porn"). Within the PTHC folders were several hundred printouts of child pornography images the defendant accessed via various Internet-based websites. Several pictures contained sadomasochistic images of prepubescent children being sexually assaulted while in bondage, often while displaying grimaces of pain. Investigators also recovered from the defendant's upstairs bedrooms a variety of sadomasochism devices, including shackles and a homemade stock mounted on a sawhorse.

As part of his guilty plea, Ballance admitted to making the January 10, 2007, payment to PayPal for access to the Sick Child Room member-restricted website, and accessing other Internet child pornography sites. The defendant further admitted to printing-out the child pornography images, which he had obtained from the Internet, and organizing them in the various file folders recovered from his home during the search.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), investigated this case, supported by Project Safe Childhood task force members in the Richmond area. The case was prosecuted by Brian R. Hood, Assistant United States Attorney.

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