



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,
United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Richfield Man Pleads Guilty to Distributing Child Pornography

A 48-year-old Richfield man pleaded guilty today in federal court to distributing child pornography.

Robert Allen Woida pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of child pornography. He entered his plea May 20 in Minneapolis before United States District Court Judge Joan Ericksen. Woida was indicted on Dec. 9, 2008.

According to Woida's plea agreement, he admitted that on Jan. 19, 2007, he knowingly and intentionally sent pictures of a minor in a sexually explicit pose over the Internet. Woida sent the images to an individual in Wisconsin that in fact was a undercover police officer.

Woida faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Ericksen will determine Woida's sentence at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Ashland County Sheriff's Office, Ashland, Wisc. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Newberry.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a national initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, PSC marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about PSC, visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov.