



Department of Justice

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MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- GREGORY P. BUTLER, 38, of Red Creek, NY, pled guilty on May 26, 2009, before U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer, to a felony indictment charging him with one count of Transportation of Child Pornography, and one count of Possession of Child Pornography. Acting U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today. The Transportation of Child Pornography charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years and a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment. Possession of Child Pornography carries a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment. Each charge is also punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig R. Gestring, who handled the case, stated that between October 27 and 29, 2008, the defendant engaged in online chats with an undercover Federal Agent. In the course of these chats, he transmitted several images of child pornography from his home in Wayne County to the undercover agent in California via the internet. Agents from the United States Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement seized a computer from the defendant's Red Creek residence on October 31, and located over 150 images and movies depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit activity. The agents placed the defendant under arrest, and he remains detained pending sentencing.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide 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 (CEOS), 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 to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Lev Kubiak, and Deputies from the Wayne County Sheriff's Office under the direction of Sheriff Richard J. Piscioti.

Sentencing is scheduled for September 3, 2009, in Rochester, NY, in front of U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer.