



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **BRADFORD COUNTY MAN CHARGED WITH RECEIVING AND DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced that a 40-year-old Bradford County resident was indicted by a federal grand jury on July 20, 2010, for receiving and distributing child pornography.

According to United States Attorney Peter J. Smith, the grand jury alleges that Christopher J. Stephani, Columbia Crossroads, Pennsylvania, used a computer to download and distribute images of child pornography between 2008 and March 4, 2010. Stephani was arrested today by Special Agents of the Bureau of Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the Department of Homeland Security.

The charge against Stephani resulted from an investigation by ICE, the Pennsylvania State Police, and Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office.

U.S. Attorney Smith noted that 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](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

U.S. Attorney Smith noted that the case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Francis P. Sempa.

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*An Indictment or Information is not evidence of guilt but simply a description of the charge made by the Grand Jury and/or United States Attorney against a defendant. A charged Defendant is presumed innocent until a jury returns a unanimous finding that the United States has proven the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt or until the defendant has pled guilty to the charges.*