



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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**CONVICTED BRADFORD COUNTY SEX OFFENDER**  
**INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announced today that Rhymer Rhuebin Howell, Jr. (59, Starke) has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Jacksonville on child pornography charges. Howell is charged with two counts of attempted transportation of child pornography and three counts of possession of child pornography. On each of the attempted transportation counts, Howell faces a mandatory minimum of 15 years and up to 40 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. On each of the possession counts, Howell faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years and up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Howell had his initial appearance in federal court today. His arraignment and detention hearing will be held before United States Magistrate Judge James R. Klindt on June 24, 2011.

Howell has at least two prior convictions for sex offenses against minor children. In 1980, he was convicted of attempted sexual battery, and in 1986 he was convicted of attempted lewd and lascivious assault on a child.

This case was investigated by the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, the Prince William County Police Department (Manassas, Virginia), the Sachse Police Department (Texas), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed one or more violations of federal criminal law, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. 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).