



Department of Justice

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**BREVARD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER TECHNICIAN ARRESTED ON
FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announced today that Steven Waring (32, Titusville, Florida) was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents on a criminal complaint for distribution and possession of child pornography. Waring is employed by the Brevard County School Board as a Computer Technician Specialist at Space Coast Junior/Senior High School. If indicted on distribution and possession of child pornography, Waring will face a mandatory minimum of 5 years and up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine for distributing child pornography. He also faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine for possession of child pornography.

Following his initial appearance, Waring was detained pending indictment charges. An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by ICE HSI. It is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Myrna Amelia Mesa.

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.

This case was part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to identify, investigate, and arrest those who prey on children, including human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers, and foreign-national predators whose crimes make them deportable. ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-347-2423. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.