

For Immediate Release
September 16, 2011

**FORMER CORRECTIONS OFFICER SENTENCED TO 97 MONTHS
FOR FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE – United States Attorney Kenneth Gonzales announced that yesterday afternoon in federal court in Albuquerque, **Stephen Hensley**, a 42-year-old resident of Tucumcari, New Mexico, was sentenced to a 97-month term of imprisonment to be followed by 20 years of supervised release for his conviction on a child pornography charge. Hensley also was ordered to pay \$1,000.00 in restitution to the victim of the “Vicky” series of child pornography. Hensley will be required to register as a sex offender after he completes his prison sentence.

Court records reflect that the New Mexico State Police (NMSP) initiated an investigation into Hensley in January 2010 after his Internet Protocol Address (IP) was identified as one which was offering child pornography images through a peer-to-peer file-sharing program. At the time, Hensley was a corrections officer at the Quay County Detention Facility. As a result of the NMSP investigation, on December 15, 2010, a federal grand jury returned a four-count indictment charging Hensley with two counts of receipt of visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct; and two counts of possession of child pornography.

On April 25, 2010, Hensley entered a guilty plea to count 1 of the indictment, charging him with receipt of child pornography. In his plea agreement, Hensley acknowledged that, on July 1, 2010, the NMSP executed a search warrant at his residence and seized his computer and computer-related media. On that day, Hensley voluntarily submitted to a tape-recorded interview with a NMSP officer during which he admitted using the peer-to-peer file-sharing program of Limewire to download child pornography and that he had images and videos of child pornography on his computer.

In his plea agreement, Hensley acknowledged that a forensic examination of his computer and computer-related media uncovered hundreds of image files and video files of child pornography. Hensley also acknowledged that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children determined that the child pornography images found on his computers and computer-related media included 80 images of 31 children who have been identified as child pornography victims and have been rescued, and 31 videos of 22 children who have been identified as child pornography victims and have been rescued.

The case was investigated by the NMSP, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Charlyn E. Rees. The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and DOJ's Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, 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 case also was brought as part of the New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force's (ICAC Task Force) mission to locate, track, and capture Internet child sexual predators and Internet child pornographers in New Mexico. There are 61 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies associated with the ICAC Task Force, which is funded by a grant administered by the NMAGO. Anyone with information relating to suspected child predators and suspected child abuse is encouraged to contact federal or local law enforcement.

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