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For Immediate Release
October 22, 2009

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LAFAYETTE, LA MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

*Defendant receives eight years in federal prison and
will be under court supervision for life*

LAFAYETTE, La. - A Lafayette, La. man was sentenced today to eight years in federal prison, to be followed by supervised release for the remainder of his life, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. Ty Anthony Trahan, 31, was sentenced by United States District Judge Tucker L. Melancon for receiving child pornography.

Trahan was indicted in October 2008 and pleaded guilty in April 2009 to receiving child pornography. Trahan admitted to downloading child pornography onto his home computer. The defendant erased the images before his computer was seized by law enforcement officers. However, a forensic examination of the computer was conducted, and the pornography that Trahan downloaded and subsequently deleted was recovered, along with the date that the defendant actually downloaded the images.

U. S. Attorney Donald Washington stated: "Children appearing in pornographic photos and videos are victims of a terrible crime. Those who possess these photos and videos are victimizing defenseless children. This office will continue to pursue predators of innocent children through vigorous investigations and prosecutions seeking maximum punishment."

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Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the Lafayette Police Department and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Luke Walker.

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