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LEESVILLE MAN CONVICTED IN FEDERAL COURT FOR PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Faces Up to 40 Years In Prison For Production and Possession of Child Pornography

Lake Charles, Louisiana . . . Christopher J. Comeaux, 34, Leesville, Louisiana, was convicted by a federal jury yesterday of production and possession of child pornography following a two-day trial and only 30 minutes of jury deliberation, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. Sentencing is set for March 11, 2010.

Comeaux was named in a two-count federal indictment after the mother of the 10-year-old victim notified authorities of the suspected abuse and turned over to authorities a computer containing thousands of hardcore child pornography images. According to trial testimony, Comeaux had been molesting the minor female for over a year prior to the time that he produced child pornography. When the mother of the minor left town, the defendant video taped the minor while he sexually assaulted her.

Comeaux faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison and a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison, a \$ 250,000.00 fine, or both, and lifetime of supervised release upon his release from prison. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

U. S. Attorney Donald Washington stated: “This office will continue to aggressively pursue predators of innocent children, which will be met by vigorous investigations and prosecutions seeking maximum punishment.”

This case was investigated by Beth Westlake of the Leesville Police Department and Special Agent Gene Steech of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement as part of Project Safe Childhood initiative. In February 2006, Project Safe Childhood was created as a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney’s Offices, 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 identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit: www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Luke Walker.

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