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United States Attorney's Office  
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**VENTRESS, LA MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT  
ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

**LAFAYETTE, La.:** United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced that James Dustin Smith, age 30, of Ventress, La., was sentenced today to serve 134 months in federal prison for attempting to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity. The sentence was handed down by U.S. District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote in federal court in Lafayette, La. The Judge also ordered Smith to serve 10 years of supervised release and to register as a sex offender.

According to court documents previously filed with the court, Smith participated in online chats from March 29, 2011 to April 5, 2011 with an undercover officer he believed to be a 14-year-old female from Lafayette and identified himself to the girl as a 29-year-old male from Baton Rouge, La. As the chats continued, Smith sent a sexually explicit picture of himself and asked the girl if she would perform oral sex on him. He also asked her if she would like to have sex with an older guy and explained that he wanted to teach her about sex, but says that she could not tell anyone because he would get arrested. On April 5, 2011, Smith developed a plan for the two to meet for sex. He then drove from Baton Rouge to Lafayette, and upon his arrival at the agreed meeting place, was arrested by law enforcement. The defendant admitted that he knew the girl was underage and that he was wrong and would get in trouble for communicating with a juvenile.

The case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Louisiana State Police. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Myers P. Namie.

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

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

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