

Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.
Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 30, 2011
www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw

CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

MAN CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTION AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BUFFALO, N.Y.—U.S. Attorney William, J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Anthony F. Amato, Jr., 38, of Tonawanda, NY, has been charged by Complaint with distribution and possession of child pornography. The charges carry a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison, a maximum of 20 years and a \$250,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron J. Mango, who is handling the case, stated that during the execution of a search warrant, child pornography was found on the defendant's home computer. According to the Complaint, Amato admitted that he moved the child pornography onto CD-R disks and estimated there would be as many as 1000 images in total on the disks.

Amato appeared today before Federal Magistrate Hugh B. Scott and pleaded not guilty to the charges. He was released on bond and subject to electronic monitoring and home confinement. The defendant is due back in court July 12, 2011.

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 in May 2006 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.projectsafchildhood.gov.

The arrest is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Acting Special Agent-In-Charge Richard W. Kollmar and the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of

Commissioner Daniel Derenda. Additional assistance was provided by the Western New York Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, which conducted the forensic analysis of the computer.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

###