

# Department of Justice

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

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## **ONTARIO COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Chad Crowley, 26, of Clifton Springs, N.Y., pleaded guilty to receipt of child pornography before Magistrate Judge Marian W. Payson. The charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of five years in prison, a maximum penalty of 20 years, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who is handling the case, stated that between February 12 and 13, 2011, Crowley used a cell phone to engage in sexually explicit text messages with a 13-year-old female. The messages included the defendant receiving sexually explicit images from the female. Crowley admitted that he knew the female was a minor.

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](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero, Investigators from the New York State Police under the direction of Major Mark Koss, and the Ontario County District Attorney's Office, under the direction of Michael Tantillo.

A sentencing date has yet to be scheduled before Judge David G. Larimer.

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