

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Jason Gibbs of Lewiston, New York, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny, to possession of child pornography. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 fine or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric M. Opanga, who is handling the case, stated that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents executed a search warrant at the defendant's home and seized his computer and other items. An analysis of the computer revealed over 1000 images of child pornography. Some of the images included sexually explicit depictions of minors under twelve years old.

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.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The plea is the result of an investigation by Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James Spiro.

Sentencing is scheduled for December 1, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., in Buffalo, N.Y., before Judge Skretny.