

Department of Justice

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FLORIDA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FAILING TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Nicholas Hayes, 48, of Pasco County, Florida, pleaded guilty to failing to register as a sex offender before U.S. District Court Judge Charles J. Siragusa. The charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant was a registered sex offender as a result of four convictions of lewd and lascivious acts involving a child in the state of Florida. Hayes last updated his sex offender registration in November 2010 and acknowledged that he was to report to the local Sheriff's office within 48 hours of relocating to another state. According to Florida law enforcement, he left the state without doing so. Hayes resided in Pennsylvania from Christmas 2010 through mid-February 2011 and most recently, he resided in Steuben County, in Lindley, New York.

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 culmination of an investigation on the part of the United States Marshals Service under the direction of United States Marshal Charles Salina.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 26, 2011 at 4:15pm before Judge Siragusa.

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