

Department of Justice

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BRIGHTON MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that David Helander, 65, of Brighton, N.Y., who was convicted of possession of child pornography, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa to 60 months in prison and 120 months of supervised release.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig R. Gestring, who handled the case, stated that the defendant downloaded more than 1,645 images of child pornography over the internet on to digital media he owned. The images included prepubescent children, as well as depictions of violence against children. Helander was identified online by federal agents conducting an undercover child exploitation investigation. During the execution of a search warrant, agents found a computer actively downloading images of child pornography.

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 sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent In Charge James C. Spero.

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