

Department of Justice

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

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

BRIGHTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that David Helander, 64, of Brighton, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa to possession of child pornography. Each count carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig R. Gestring, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant received more than 600 images of child pornography over the internet and possessed those images on digital media he owned, including computers, hard drives and removable media. The images included prepubescent children as well as depictions of violence against children.

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.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

The plea 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.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 24, 2012, at 2:45 p.m. EST, in Rochester, N.Y., before Judge Siragusa.