

# Department of Justice

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

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## **SENECA FALLS MAN CHARGED IN CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASE**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Lawrence Higgins, 61, of Seneca Falls, N.Y., was arrested and charged by criminal complaint with the knowing receipt and possession of child pornography. Due to Higgins's prior convictions, the charge of receipt carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 15 years in prison, a maximum of 30 years and a fine of \$250,000; the charge of possession carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison, a maximum of 20 years and a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who is handling the case, stated that according to the complaint, the United States Postal Inspection Service received information that the defendant ordered DVD's depicting child pornography from an "International Company." Between November 2008 and March 2011, Higgins made 11 purchases. The DVD's were delivered to an address located on State Street in Seneca Falls. A search warrant was executed by Inspectors from the Postal Inspection Service on November 14, 2012 at that location. The defendant admitted to ordering the DVD's and to possessing thousands of images of child pornography and hundreds of hours of videos of child pornography on his computers and digital storage media.

Higgins also admitted that he was a convicted sex offender and while living in Seneca Falls for several years, he did not inform the New York State Sex Offender Registry of his Seneca Falls address. According to the complaint, Higgins was in Seneca County of four counts of sexual abuse in the first degree in 1993 stemming from contact he had with an individual less than 11 years old.

Higgins made an initial appearance today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jonathan W. Feldman and is being held without bail pending a detention hearing on November 19, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

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

The criminal complaint is the culmination of an investigation on the part of the United States Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Inspector in Charge, Kevin Niland, Boston Division.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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