

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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**MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTING TO PRODUCE CHILD
PORNOGRAPHY AND TO POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Joseph A. Koehn, 28, of Buffalo, New York, pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny, to one felony charge of Attempted Production of Child Pornography and one felony count of Possession of Child Pornography. Attempted Production of Child Pornography carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 and a term of supervised release of at least 5 years and up to life. Possession of Child Pornography carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison a fine of \$250,000 and a term of supervised release of at least 5 years and up to life.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Marie P. Grisanti and Maura O'Donnell, who handled the case, stated that between in or about July 26, 2009, and on or about August 12, 2009, in the Western District of New York, the defendant used his computer and cell phone to communicate with another individual in an attempt to obtain sexually explicit photographs of a four year old child. A search of defendant's laptop computer found images and videos of child pornography. Some of the children shown in the images were prepubescent and less than 12 years of age, and some of the images portrayed sadistic or masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence. The defendant also admitted to receiving and sharing images of child pornography with others through the Internet.

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 was the culmination of an investigation on the part detectives from the Sex Offense Squad of the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of Daniel Derenda, Commissioner, and Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Christopher M. Piehota, Special Agent In Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 20, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., in front of Judge Skretny.

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