

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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BROCKPORT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Mitchell Mensing, 26, of Brockport, NY, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa, to knowingly possessing child pornography. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa J. Miller, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant possessed in excess of 600 images of child pornography which were found on two computers he owned. The child pornography included images of prepubescent children under the age of 12, some depicted acts of violence.

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 the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Lev Kubiak.

Sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 23rd, at 2:30 p.m. EST, in Rochester, N.Y., before Judge Siragusa.