

Department of Justice

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MAN SENTENCED IN CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASE

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Gary E. O'Neill, 58, of Tonawanda, N.Y., who was convicted of possession of child pornography, was sentenced to 36 months in prison and five years supervised release by Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti, who handled the case, stated that in December 2009, the defendant possessed four videos and 75 images of child pornography on his computer at his residence in Tonawanda, New York. Some of the children shown in the images were less than 12 years of age and some of the images portrayed depictions of violence. The files had been transmitted to O'Neill in interstate commerce via the Internet. The defendant also uploaded images of child pornography to 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.projectsafefchildhood.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 Lev Kubiak, Special Agent In Charge.