

Department of Justice

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 26, 2012
www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw

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

ALDEN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTION AND RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

BUFFALO, N.Y.– U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Chad A. Salvatore, 40, of Alden, N.Y., pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny, to distribution of child pornography, receipt of child pornography, and obstruction of justice. The child pornography charges carry a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison, a maximum of 40 years, and a fine of \$250,000. The obstruction of justice charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron J. Mango, who is handling the case, stated that between December 2, 2010 and December 15, 2010, an agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, downloaded graphic child pornography over the internet using a private peer-to-peer software program from a user who was later identified as the defendant. In addition, on December 15, 2010, the defendant distributed child pornography to an FBI agent in Rochester, N.Y., as well as an agent with the Colorado Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

During the investigation, it was also determined that on June 1, 2010 and July 11, 2010, Salvatore received child pornography from other individuals via email. Following the defendant's distribution of child pornography, a search warrant was conducted at his residence on December 17, 2010. Salvatore was not present at the time of the search warrant, but subsequently admitted that after being made aware of the search warrant, he destroyed a digital media device by snapping it in half.

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 was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of James C. Spero, Special Agent-In-Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 4, 2012 at 9 a.m. before Judge Skretny.

###