

For Immediate Release
July 22, 2011

**DEXTER MAN ARRAIGNED ON FEDERAL
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court in Albuquerque, **Norman Allen**, 49, of Dexter, New Mexico, was arraigned on a three-count indictment charging him with child pornography offenses. The indictment charges Allen with one count of distribution and attempted distribution of visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and two counts of possession of a matter containing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. If convicted of the charges in the indictment, Allen faces a maximum penalty of imprisonment for not less than 15 years and not more than 40 years and a lifetime of supervised release. He also will be required to register as a sex offender. Allen entered a not guilty plea to the indictment during this morning's proceedings, and was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal's Service pending trial.

According to the indictment, Allen allegedly distributed child pornography in December 2010, and allegedly possessed child pornography on two occasions in April 2011. All three offenses allegedly occurred in Chaves County.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Allen was charged based on an investigation by the Chavez County Sheriff's Office, New Southwest Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force, the Barry County Sheriff's Office (Missouri), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations. The case, which is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Charlyn E. Rees, was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices

and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, 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 case also was brought as part of the New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force whose mission it is to locate, track, and capture Internet child sexual predators and Internet child pornographers in New Mexico. There are 61 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies associated with the Task Force, which is funded by a grant administered by the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. Anyone with information relating to suspected child predators and suspected child abuse is encouraged to contact federal or local law enforcement.

Charges in indictments are only accusations. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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