



# Department of Justice

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Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **TENNESSEE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRANSPORTING 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL FOR SEX**

Rome, GA - CARL MITCHELL HOOPER, 28, of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, pleaded guilty today in federal district court to charges of inducing an individual to travel across state lines to engage in criminal sexual activity, and transporting a minor with the intent that the minor engage in criminal sexual activity.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias stated, "This case is another example of the Department of Justice's commitment to identify and prosecute criminals who sexually exploit our children. Our message to those offenders is that we will find you, convict you, and have you locked away for a long time."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: In 2006, HOOPER, who was a registered sex offender in Tennessee, came to Walker County, Georgia, where he met a 14-year-old girl. When the girl became pregnant, HOOPER was arrested on a state charge of statutory rape, but released on bond. In June 2006 HOOPER picked up the 14-year-old at her home in Walker County and drove her to a hotel in East Ridge, Tennessee, where they engaged in sexual activity. HOOPER then drove the victim from Tennessee, through Georgia, and on to Jacksonville Beach, Florida, where they had sexual activity in a public beach area and local police arrested HOOPER on a charge of Lewd Acts with a Minor.

On October 25, 2006, HOOPER was indicted by a federal grand jury in Atlanta, charging him with the two counts to which he pleaded guilty today. Based upon HOOPER's plea of guilty to the indictment, he could receive a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 on Count One and a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 on Count Two.

Sentencing is scheduled for November 1, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., before Senior United States District Judge Robert L. Vining, Jr.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and officers of the Walker County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the

Jacksonville Beach, Florida, Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Jane Wilcox Swift is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the Home Page for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).