



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
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Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Kenneth Koehler

**CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER SENTENCED FOR
POSSESSION CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

A convicted sex offender was sentenced this afternoon to ten years in federal prison for using a means of interstate commerce to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity. in violation of federal law, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Desmond Scanlon, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service.

Kenneth Koehler, 56, of Hudsonville, Michigan, was sentenced by United States District Judge David M. Lawson.

Koehler pleaded guilty in October 2007 to one count of Enticing a Minor for Sex. At the time of his plea, Koehler admitted to engaging in on-line internet chat communications (via a Yahoo! chatroom and instant messenger) with "Caitlin," an undercover officer posing as a 13 year old female in Livonia, Michigan. During chats which occurred on approximately 30 different dates, the defendant persuaded, induced, enticed, and coerced, "Caitlin" to meet with him for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity.

United States Attorney Murphy said "Today's 10-year sentence demonstrates that enticing a minor to engage in sexual activity on the internet is a serious crime that can result in a correspondingly significant criminal penalty. My office will not sit idly by while some in society attempt to prey upon our children and put them at great risk of abuse. Protecting our children from on-line predators is a major priority of this office."

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, 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 identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

U.S. Attorney Murphy thanked United States Secret Service for their successful investigation of the case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Saima Mohsin.