



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758
Greg Palmore - ICE (313) 226-0726

February 4, 2008

EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Gary Wetmore

**BELLEVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD
PORNOGRAPHY AND BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

A 45-year-old Belleville man, who possessed over 10,000 images and movie files of child pornography was sentenced today in federal court to 18 years in prison, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Detroit Division.

Gary Wetmore, of Belleville, was sentenced as a result of his pleading guilty to one felony count of receipt of child pornography and one felony count of being a felon in possession of firearms before United States District Judge David M. Lawson.

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that Wetmore, who had been previously convicted on child pornography charges as well as criminal sexual conduct in the first degree, used a credit card to purchase access to child pornography websites. During a search of the defendant's residence, agents seized four computers and several storage media which contained tens of thousands of images and movie files of child pornography. The images that Wetmore possessed included minors, under the age of 12,

engaged in sexually explicit conduct and images that depict the children subjected to sadistic, masochistic and other violent acts. Also found during the search were three firearms.

“This defendant’s collection included the possession of tens of thousands of images, making this defendant one of the most prolific collectors of child pornography that we’ve seen in this district,” U.S. Attorney Murphy stated. “Federal laws that target the child pornography trade exist to eliminate the victimization of children all over the world because those who collect and possess child pornography create the demand which fuels the marketplace for this insidious practice. We will prosecute these crimes vigorously.”

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice created 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

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Saima Mohsin.