



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**OREGON MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR INTERSTATE TRAVEL
WITH INTENT TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTS WITH A MINOR**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in El Paso this morning, 60-year-old Richard Hoyt Wales of Medford, Oregon, was sentenced to seven years in federal prison for interstate travel with intent to engage in sexual acts with a minor.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Frank Montalvo ordered that Wales be placed under supervised release for ten (10) years after completing his prison term.

Wales pleaded guilty to the charge on March 14, 2008. By pleading guilty, Wales admitted that in October 2007, he communicated via an internet chat room with an undercover officer posing as a mother of a 12-year-old daughter and subsequently arranged to travel to El Paso with the intent of engaging in sexual activity with the child. Authorities in El Paso arrested Wales outside the El Paso International Hostel on October 4, 2007.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation together with the El Paso Police Department. It was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Laura Gregory.

This case is being prosecuted as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood (PSC) initiative. PSC is a comprehensive initiative aimed at preventing the abuse and exploitation of children through the Internet or other distribution technology. PSC creates, on a national platform, locally designed partnerships of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers in each federal district to investigate and prosecute Internet-based crimes against children. In addition to integration of law enforcement at the district level, PSC also provides for effective participation of PSC partners in coordinated national child pornography initiatives as well as increased federal involvement in basic child pornography and enticement cases.

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