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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Colm F. Connolly
United States Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

**Repeat Sex Offender Faces Charges for Traveling to Germany to Engage in
Illicit Sex Acts with a Minor**

Colm F. Connolly, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced today the indictment of Thomas S. Pendleton, age 65, in the District of Delaware, who was charged on July 24, 2008, with violation of the PROTECT Act (“Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003”).

The defendant was charged under a provision of the PROTECT Act which makes it a crime for U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents to travel abroad and commit illicit sexual acts with minors. The indictment alleges that the defendant traveled from the United States to Germany on November 25, 2005, where he engaged in illicit sexual conduct with a minor under the age of 16. As a result of the PROTECT Act charge, the defendant faces up to 30 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and 5 years to lifetime supervised release.

The defendant is already facing a separate federal charge for failure to register as a convicted sex offender, as required by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. The defendant has been in federal custody since March 10, 2008, when the United States Marshals Service arrested him on the Adam Walsh charge.

The affidavit in support of the criminal complaint for the Adam Walsh charge alleges that Pendleton was convicted of sexual abuse of a minor in Kempten, Germany on October 16, 2006. It further alleges that the German court sentenced the defendant to two and a half years in prison; however, Pendleton was deported from Germany to the United States on January 28, 2008, having served just over one and a half years in prison.

Connolly said that PROTECT Act is intended to strengthen the laws prohibiting U.S. citizens and permanent residents from traveling abroad to commit illicit sexual acts with children. Connolly stated, “This prosecution shows that we will aggressively pursue and prosecute sexual predators, including United States citizens who choose to molest minors in foreign countries.”

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration Customs Enforcement, and the United States Marshals Service, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ilana Eisenstein with the assistance of Steve Grocki, of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department of Justice.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

For further information, please contact Ilana Eisenstein at 302-573-6277.

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