United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes Southern District of Alabama

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MOBILE, AL-- Francis Edward Tyrrell, 45, of Loxley, Alabama, has been indicted for federal child pornography charges, United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes of the Southern District of Alabama announced today.

LOXLEY MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

The indictment, returned by the federal grand jury sitting in Mobile, charges that Tyrrell received and possessed images of child pornography. A United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigation into commercial child pornography websites led to the identification of Tyrrell. Tyrrell was arrested on a federal complaint last week, and a search warrant for his computer equipment was executed. The case is part of Project Safe Childhood, the Department of Justice's initiative to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children.

The penalty for receipt of child pornography is five to twenty years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Possession of child pornography carries a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sean P. Costello.

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty at trial.