



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, July 12, 2007
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SEX OFFENDER WHO MOVED FROM IOWA TO INDIANA CHARGED WITH FAILURE TO REGISTER UNDER THE ADAM WALSH CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFETY ACT

PRESS RELEASE

EVANSVILLE, IND - JEFFREY L. WILCOX, 41, formerly of Des Moines, Iowa, was indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for failure to register as a sex offender. Susan W. Brooks, U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, along with U.S. Marshal Peter Swaim and Vanderburgh County Sheriff Eric Williams, announced the indictment at a press conference in Evansville, Indiana. WILCOX is the first person charged in the Southern District of Indiana under Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act. The indictment followed an investigation by the U.S. Marshals Service and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department.

The indictment alleges that between March 1, 2007, and June 8, 2007, JEFFREY L. WILCOX, traveled in interstate commerce and knowingly failed to register as required by the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. WILCOX was required to register based on a conviction for the offense of assault with the intent to commit sexual abuse against a thirteen year old child in Polk County, Iowa. WILCOX was charged by complaint with this offense on June 7, 2007. The complaint alleges that a friend brought WILCOX from Iowa to Evansville, Indiana, in early March of 2007. While in Evansville WILCOX obtained a job with a local restaurant and lived in an apartment located at 3313 Igleheart, Avenue. WILCOX allegedly remained in Evansville until approximately May 30, 2007. WILCOX is a registered sex offender in Iowa. WILCOX never registered with the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department while in Indiana.

The offense of failing to register as a sex offender was created as a part of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 which was enacted on July 27, 2006. The Act, which is titled in honor of Adam Walsh, the son of America's Most Wanted television host John Walsh, who was abducted and murdered in 1981 at the age of six, is intended to protect children from sexual exploitation and violent crime and to honor the memory of child crime victims. The

offense imposes criminal penalties against sex offenders who travel across state boundaries without registering with state sex offender registries in states where they reside, are employed, or are students.

This case was brought as a 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 uses 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 see www.projectsafefchildhood.gov/.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who is prosecuting the case for the government, WILCOX faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. WILCOX was arrested in Iowa on the complaint warrant on June 21, 2007. WILCOX is now in the process of being brought to Indiana by the U.S. Marshal Service. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Evansville after WILCOX is transported to the Southern District of Indiana.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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