



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PENDLETON MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that SCOTT HATFIELD, 31, Pendleton, Indiana, was indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for possessing child pornography, following an investigation by the Indiana State Police and Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as a part of the Project Safe Childhood Initiative.

The indictment alleges that on March 19, 2007, HATFIELD possessed 58 computer video files containing child pornography images. Of those 58, the indictment lists 12 specifically by name which have graphic names that suggest the images are of young children and would be attractive to those with a sexual interest in children.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who is prosecuting the case for the government, HATFIELD faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. An initial hearing will be scheduled for before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis, Indiana.

This case was prosecuted as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Project Safe Childhood initiative was created 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 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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