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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2008

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SOUTH CAROLINA MAN SENTENCED TO 58 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR INTERSTATE TRAVEL TO HAVE SEX WITH A MINOR

Jacksonville, FL - U.S. District Judge Virginia M. Hernandez Covington yesterday sentenced James Edward Dove, age 28 and a resident of Beech Island, South Carolina, to 58 months in prison and a life term of supervised release for traveling from South Carolina to Jacksonville on April 17, 2007, with intent to have sex with a minor child. The Court also ordered Dove to register as a sex offender under applicable federal and state law. On August 15, 2007, Dove pleaded guilty to the charge of interstate travel with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor. He has been in custody since his arrest on April 17, 2007.

According to court documents, Dove traveled by car from Beech Island, South Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida, on April 17, 2007, for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a person Dove believed was a 13 year-old female child. However, the "13 year-old female child" was actually an investigator with the State of Florida Attorney General's Office Child Predator CyberCrime Unit. Court documents also indicated that Dove had engaged in online "chats" and email by computer with the investigator during the two weeks prior to his travel. During these "chats," Dove described the sex acts that he wanted to perform with the "child."

Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown handled the prosecution of this case. The case was investigated by the Child Predator CyberCrime Unit of the State of Florida Attorney General's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice established Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online sexual 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 on Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The Florida Attorney General's Child Predator CyberCrime Unit is a member of the FBI Cyber Taskforce in Jacksonville and the North Florida Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, a federally funded program working nationwide to educate and support law enforcement to stop these crimes. More information on the Florida Attorney General's CyberCrime initiative is available at <http://www.myfloridalegal.com>.