



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa

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Jacksonville

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OHIO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Jacksonville, FL - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announced that Benjamin Paul Strieter, age 20, formerly of Jacksonville and now a resident of Ohio, pled guilty in U.S. District Court in Jacksonville on January 22, 2008 to federal charges of possession of child pornography. Strieter faces a maximum penalty of a term of imprisonment of up to 10 years, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of not less than 5 years and up to life. A sentencing date for Strieter has not yet been set.

According to court documents, Strieter was identified by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when he purchased memberships in a particular child pornography website to obtain videos and images of child pornography. Computer media used by Strieter to store child pornography was subsequently seized by ICE and detectives with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office at Strieter's residence in Jacksonville. Forensic analysis of this media, which included computer hard drives and other storage media possessed by Strieter, revealed over 2,200 images and approximately 597 videos depicting child pornography.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown is handling the prosecution of this case.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's 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.