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JACKSONVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO OVER 8 YEARS IN PRISON FOR RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OVER THE INTERNET

Jacksonville, FL - Senior United States District Judge John H. Moore, II, on Wednesday, sentenced Eric Shawn Garcia, age 34 and a resident of Jacksonville, to a term of imprisonment of 8 years and one month (97 months) and a life term of supervised release for receiving child pornography. On March 17, 2008, Garcia pled guilty to the federal charge of knowing receipt of child pornography by computer in interstate commerce.

According to court documents, Garcia used a credit card to purchase a membership in a child pornography website and then downloaded images and videos of child pornography over the Internet to a computer. On July 18, 2007, agents with the FBI and the State of Florida Attorney General's Office ("AGO") interviewed Garcia at his home in Jacksonville. Garcia admitted downloading images and videos of child pornography, and allowed the agents to search his computer. A subsequent forensic analysis of this computer conducted by the FBI revealed over 200 images and approximately 300 videos depicting child pornography. On December 3, 2007, FBI and AGO agents executed a search warrant at Garcia's residence. During the search, agents discovered another computer, numerous compact disks, and other electronic media belonging to Garcia. Forensic analysis of this media revealed, among other things, that this second computer

contained several hundred additional images and videos depicting child pornography which had been downloaded by Garcia during the previous month.

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 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.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown, and was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Child Predator CyberCrime Unit of the State of Florida Attorney General's Office.