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SHREVEPORT PHYSICIAN CONVICTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Davis faces a minimum 15 year sentence in federal prison

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . JOHN DAVIS, age 72, a physician from Metairie who migrated to Shreveport, Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, has been convicted by a jury in Lafayette of attempted production of child pornography, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced.

DAVIS was indicted in June 2006 charging him with one count of attempted production of child pornography. The charge stemmed from an online undercover investigation by the Louisiana Attorney General's Office, Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, related to Internet predators. In connection with that investigation, an agent would enter a chat room pretending to be a 14-year old female, and see if she was approached by an Internet predator.

Testimony at trial revealed that in June 2005, the undercover agent was approached by DAVIS on the Internet. From the first chats, DAVIS aggressively discussed sexual matters with the person he believed to be a 14-year old female. DAVIS repeatedly asked the person to perform sexual acts and send the sexy pictures to him via web camera. In May 2006, DAVIS asked the person to take sexually explicit images of

herself and send them to him over the Internet. On the following day, DAVIS, using a web camera, performed a sexually explicit act displaying his genitalia to the person he believed to be a 14-year old minor. DAVIS was thereafter arrested. Testimony during trial also revealed that DAVIS had communicated with other minor females by way of instant message and Internet chat.

The jury deliberated for approximately 45 minutes before finding DAVIS guilty of the crime of attempted production of child pornography. DAVIS was immediately detained as a result of the conviction.

DAVIS faces a mandatory minimum of 15 years in prison or up to 30 years in prison. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated: “We are resolved to protect our children from Internet predators and pedophiles. Dr. Davis faces a 15-30 year sentence, and will likely spend the remainder of his life in prison. We empathize with the defendant’s family. We are even more comforted by the knowledge that this defendant will not ever be a threat to our children again.”

This case was part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created 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 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.

This case was investigated by the Louisiana Attorney General’s Office and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Lafayette Resident Agency, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Luke Walker.

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