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For Immediate Release
September 14, 2007

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MISSOURI MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Man tried to entice 14-year old girl to engage in sexual conduct

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **MICHAEL J. LINES**, age 56, of Union, Missouri, was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge S. Maurice Hicks to spend **20 years in prison** for attempted sexual exploitation of children and possession of child pornography.

LINES was indicted in August 2006 in the Western District of Louisiana and pleaded guilty in March to the charge of attempted sexual exploitation of children. Testimony in this case revealed that in July 2006, LINES engaged in online chats over the Internet with an undercover agent who was posing as a 14-year female in Bossier City, Louisiana. During the chats, LINES offered to purchase a bus ticket for the 14-year old girl to travel from Bossier City to Missouri so that he could take pornographic pictures of her. When the girl declined his invitation, he offered to travel to Bossier City. When LINES arrived at the house in Bossier City to meet the girl, he was arrested by federal, state, and local, agents.

LINES was also charged with one count of possession of child pornography in an indictment in the Eastern District of Missouri in December 2006; LINES pled guilty to that charge in March 2007. Testimony

in that case revealed that contemporaneous to LINES' arrest in Bossier City, federal, state, and local agents executed a federal search warrant at LINES' residence in Union City, Missouri. The agents seized computer hardware and software. Subsequent examination of the seized items revealed child pornography. This case was transferred to the Western District of Louisiana for disposition pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 20 and agreement by the parties. LINES was also sentenced yesterday in this case by United States District Judge S. Maurice Hicks to spend **10 years in prison** on the child pornography charge, to run concurrent with the 20 year prison term on the case from Western District of Louisiana.

This case was brought as 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.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Shreveport Resident Agency, and the Northwest Louisiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl M. Campbell.

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