



U.S. Department of Justice

**Terrence Berg
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

***Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277***

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: David Earl Ferguson

**GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENT AGAINST REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER
FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

David Earl Ferguson, 62, of Dundee, Michigan, was arraigned on an indictment charging him with Possession of Child Pornography, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Detroit field office.

The indictment charges that between October 1, 2007 and April 10, 2008, Ferguson possessed over 1,000 images of child pornography on his laptop computer. Ferguson was convicted in 1996 of two counts of Fourth Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct involving a minor and is a registered sex offender.

Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg said, "The exploitation of children through child pornography is serious criminal conduct, particularly if the violation involves a defendant with a history of such crimes."

The charge in the indictment returned Tuesday is punishable by a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 in prison, up to 20 years, and/or a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice launched 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 special agents of the FBI. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Chasteen.