



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Stephen J. Murphy  
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Eastern District of Michigan**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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June 10, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Christopher Tufnell**

**GRAND BLANC MAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS FOR ATTEMPTED  
COERCION AND ENTICEMENT OF "13-YEAR-OLD" ON THE INTERNET**

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Stephen J. Murphy, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, announced that Christopher Tufnell, 32, of Grand Blanc, Michigan was sentenced today to 120 months' in prison as a result of his guilty plea to attempted coercion and enticement. Defendant Tufnell was sentenced before United States District Judge Sean Cox who also ordered that, once released, Tufnell be placed under supervised release for a period of 5 years, undergo sex offender treatment and register as a sex offender.

According to information presented to the court, between June 5, 2007 and July 29, 2007, Defendant Tufnell engaged in a series of online conversations with an undercover Ohio police detective whom he believed to be a 13-year-old girl. Tufnell indicated a desire to engage in sex with the teen. Tufnell proposed specific acts of sexual activity, gave the "girl" his telephone number, and later scheduled a date and time for them to meet.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Accosting children for sexual purposes is just as serious to the victim when it happens online as when it happens on a street corner. And, fortunately, we have the means to detect and apprehend those who are trying to use the Internet to find children for sexual abuse. This case is an example of the continuing commitment of my office to go after child sexually abusive conduct on the Internet."

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and the Toledo Police Department.

This prosecution was facilitated through Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide Department of Justice 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/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/)."