



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Stephen J. Murphy  
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**For Immediate Release:**

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Brian Lee Flaherty**

**LOS ANGELES FIREFIGHTER SENTENCED TO 12 ½ YEARS  
FOR FLYING TO DETROIT TO HAVE SEX WITH A FIVE YEAR OLD CHILD**

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Stephen J. Murphy, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, announced that Brian Lee Flaherty, 38, of Chino Hills, California, was sentenced today in United States District Court following his October 2007 guilty plea to Enticement to Commit Illegal Sexual Activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b) and Child Pornography Transportation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(1). Flaherty was sentenced by the Honorable Gerald E. Rosen to 12 ½ years in federal prison, to be followed by 8 years of supervised release.

In January and February 2007, Flaherty engaged in a series of online and telephone conversations with a Macomb Area Computer Enforcement Unit (MACE) undercover detective whom he believed to be a single mother of a 5-year-old girl and 3-year-old boy. He repeatedly indicated a desire travel to Detroit to engage in illegal sexual contact with the 5-year-old girl. Specifically, Flaherty stated that he wanted to anally and vaginally penetrate the young girl using his fingers, penis, and other objects. He also indicated his desire to have the 5 year old perform oral sex on him. Flaherty instructed the "mother" to prepare her daughter for his visit by using various objects to penetrate her vaginally and anally. During the online conversations, Flaherty also e-mailed the undercover detective multiple child pornography

images and videos depicting babies and young children.

As a result of these conversations, Flaherty traveled to the Detroit area to meet with the woman and her children on February 23, 2007. Upon his arrival, Flaherty was arrested by authorities from the FBI and MACE.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said: “Mr. Flaherty’s interest both in images that memorialize child abuse and his attempts to contact and meet with children for sex acts cannot be tolerated in our society. Mr. Flaherty’s conduct in developing an on-line relationship with a single mother in hopes of securing access to her children that he intended to abuse is deplorable. The lengthy sentence handed down in this case amply demonstrates those points. Today’s sentence shows that our Child Protection Initiative is working, that criminals who engage in similar conduct will be aggressively prosecuted, and that the United States Attorney’s Office will do everything we can to keep the Internet from functioning as a haven for child molesters.”

Murphy praised the work of the FBI, the Macomb County Sheriff’s Office, and their joint task force, the Macomb Area Computer Enforcement Unit. Their dedication of time and skill necessary to work to reveal and apprehend these predators has been most successful.

Assistant United States Attorney Frances Lee Carlson prosecuted case for the United States.