



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
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: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Donald Solomon

MT. CLEMENS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Recidivist To Be Sentenced From 15 to 40 Years Imprisonment

A 39-year-old Mt. Clemens man pled guilty to receiving child pornography in federal court today, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in Detroit.

Donald Solomon was first identified by federal agents in 2003 as part of their investigation into Regpay, a Belarus-based company operating child pornography websites and payment services. In June and July 2003, Solomon attempted to purchase access to websites containing child pornography videos at least 36 times.

In 1993, Solomon was convicted of Criminal Sexual Conduct – 2nd Degree after performing oral sex on a child under 13. He served a year in prison and was put on five years probation. He violated his probation in 2000 by failing to register as a sex offender and was sentenced to another 150 days in custody.

On August 21, 2007, after Solomon again failed to register as a sex offender, state and federal agents raided his home at an apartment complex on Gibbs St. in Mount Clemens. During the resulting search, agents discovered that Solomon had been downloading child pornography through WebTV, a television-based internet service. Solomon also had stored nearly 500 images of child pornography in Yahoo and Hotmail e-mail accounts. Among the images were children younger than 12.

United States Attorney Murphy stated that, "Individuals involved with child pornography in any way -- including purchasing and downloading such images -- fuel an industry that abuses, hurts and causes irreparable physical and emotional harm to young children. Our critical mission includes doing all we can to protect these children and preventing similar abuse from being visited on other potential victims. I commend the members of our office and the investigating agency ICE who worked hard to achieve the result in this case."

Because of his prior CSC-II conviction, Solomon faces a mandatory statutory minimum of 15 years imprisonment. Receipt of child pornography is punishable by up to 40 years imprisonment.

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 is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Leonid Feller.