



# Department of Justice

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## **FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA MAN INDICTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

Newnan, GA - A federal grand jury today indicted WILLIAM J. FOWLER, 60, of Tyrone, Georgia, on charges of distribution and possession of child pornography. FOWLER was previously arrested on a criminal complaint and is expected to be arraigned on the indictment before a United States Magistrate on a date not yet scheduled.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "This indictment exemplifies our continuing commitment to protect our children from the scourge of sexual exploitation by identifying and prosecuting those who use the Internet to exploit children." The United States Attorney indicated that the investigation of this case is continuing.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the charges and other information presented in court: FOWLER allegedly sent six images of child pornography and one sexually explicit cartoon, via email, to an individual in Messena, New York, in July 2006. On January 9, 2007, federal agents, assisted by local authorities, executed a search warrant at FOWLER's home in Tyrone, (Fayette County) Georgia. Law enforcement officers found a computer at the home, and a preliminary review of files contained in the computer revealed several hundred images of what appears to be alleged child pornography.

The indictment charges FOWLER with one count of transporting child pornography in interstate commerce by means of a computer, and one count of possession of child pornography, both in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A. The charge in count one carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years and a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. The charge in count two carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. Both charges carry a fine of up to \$250,000.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online sexual 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.projectsafecchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafecchildhood.gov).

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case has been investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, with the assistance of Officers of the Tyrone Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys Jane Wilcox Swift and Lawrence Sommerfeld are prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).