



Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa

Orlando

Jacksonville

Fort Myers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday - February 6, 2008

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

CONTACT: STEVE COLE

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

FAX: (813) 274-6300

FLAGLER COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGE OF POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Jacksonville, FL - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announced today that a Flagler County man pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Jacksonville yesterday to a one-count information charging him with possession of materials containing visual depictions of child pornography. The defendant, James Edward Smith, Jr., age 68, is a resident of Palm Coast. Court documents charged that on September 19, 2007, Smith knowingly possessed matters which contained visual depictions that had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce, the production of which visual depictions involved the use of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. According to the plea agreement, a computer obtained from Smith's residence on September 19, 2007 contained approximately 150 images depicting child pornography. Smith faces a maximum penalty of up to 10 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine and a term of supervised release of not less than five years and up to life. In addition, the plea agreement requires the forfeiture of Smith's computer. A sentencing date for Smith has not yet been set.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's 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 on Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafecchildhood.gov.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown is handling the prosecution of this case.