



# Department of Justice

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Tampa

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Jacksonville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FT. MYERS MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR ARRESTED FOR  
ARRANGING TO BEAT AND HAVE SEX WITH MINORS**

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill today announced the arrest on a Criminal Complaint of Charles Jackson Friedlander, a 78 year old resident of Ft. Myers, Florida, charging him with using a computer to attempt to arrange sex with two children. The maximum penalties faces if indicted and convicted of this charge is a minimum 10 years imprisonment to a maximum of life, and a fine of \$250,000.00.

According to the Criminal Complaint, Friedlander, a licensed mental health counselor, engaged in numerous internet chats with an undercover officer, and on July 21, 2008, drove from Ft. Myers to Tampa to whip two boys, ages 10 and 11 with leather belts and straps and then engage in sexual activity with the children.

A complaint is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

The case was investigated by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda C. Kaiser.