



# Department of Justice

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

Tampa

Orlando

Jacksonville

Fort Myers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2008

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CONTACT: STEVE COLE

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

FAX: (813) 274-6300

## **TAMPA MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Tampa, FL - United States District Court Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich today sentenced Dale Lee Hitchings, age 47, to a sentence of 21 years' and ten months' imprisonment, to be followed by a term of lifetime supervised release. The defendant pled guilty on June 5, 2008, to one count of receiving visual depictions containing minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

According to the facts in testimony in court, agents of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement(ICE) executed a federal search warrant at the residence of Hitchings in Tampa on August 9, 2007. They did so after discovering that a computer with an IP address assigned to Hitchings had been making images containing child pornography available to others online for sharing purposes. When the agents executed the warrant, they found a computer and various computer media at the residence of the defendant. Forensic examination of the computer and the computer media found over 300 images containing child pornography.

The case was investigated by ICE and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Tampa Division.