



Department of Justice

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JACKSONVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGE OF POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Jacksonville, FL - Vance Edmond LeSage, age 47, pleaded guilty yesterday to possession of child pornography. Lesage was arrested in Jacksonville on August 27, 2008, and has been in federal custody since that time. LeSage faces a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a life term of supervised release. Additionally, LeSage, a licensed bail bondsman in the state of Florida, faces possible revocation of his license by the State of Florida Department of Insurance.

According to court documents, during 2007, agents with the ICE Cyber Crimes Center began investigating commercial child pornography web-sites on the Internet. During the course of this investigation, agents identified information indicating that Mr. LeSage obtained a subscription to one of the child pornography web-sites. On February 26, 2008, members of the Jacksonville Division of ICE and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office ("JSO") Vice Unit went to Mr. LeSage's residence in Jacksonville and spoke to him about his subscription. During this interview, he stated, among other things, that he subscribed to "sweetheart stuff" web-sites, but was not sure of the ages of all of the children on the web-sites.

Later that day, ICE agents and members of the JSO Vice Unit executed a search warrant at LeSage's residence. During the search, agents seized an iMac computer. A subsequent forensic examination of the iMac computer revealed approximately 20,000

images of child erotica and approximately 130 images of child pornography. Some of the images of child pornography portrayed sadistic conduct involving children.

The case was investigated by the Jacksonville Division of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Vice Unit. Assistant United States Attorney Kevin C. Frein is handling the prosecution of this case. A sentencing date for Mr. LeSage has not yet been set.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales 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.projectsafechildhood.gov.