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United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott
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CONTACT: Lauren Horwood
PHONE: (916) 554-2706
lauren.horwood@usdoj.gov

RANCHO CORDOVA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Defendant's Computer Contained over 30,000 Images of Child Pornography

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that GEORGE STOLBERG III, 58, of Rancho Cordova, Calif., pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge William B. Shubb to transporting child pornography and possession of material that contained child pornography.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Sacramento-based Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. It was undertaken as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC). PSC is a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children and to reduce the number of Internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies and organizations to increase law enforcement presence on the Internet and to educate the public about safe Internet use, thereby reducing the risk that children might fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafefchildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Laurel White, who prosecuted the case, STOLBERG admitted he had been collecting images of child pornography since 1993 or 1994. He was a computer technician for the Elk Grove Unified School District and came to the attention of law enforcement late last year after America Online intercepted two videos that had been distributed by an AOL subscriber later identified as STOLBERG. The videos depicted very young girls engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Law enforcement officers obtained warrants to seize and search STOLBERG's computers. When analyzed, STOLBERG's computer hard drives and a DVD were found to contain 13 videos, and more than 30,000 still images of child pornography depicting known and previously identified victims of child sexual abuse.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on January 12, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of possessing child pornography is 10 years in prison, and the maximum penalty for transporting visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, is 20 years in prison. The transportation charge also carries a five-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment. Both charges also carry a possible \$250,000 fine, a \$100 special assessment, and possible life term of supervised release. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors. The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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