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SAVANNAH DAY LABORER SENTENCED
FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDER

Savannah, Georgia: Edmund A. Booth, Jr., United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that **Charles Kevin Kertell, age 48**, formerly of Seffner, Florida, was sentenced in United States District Court by U.S. District Judge B. Avant Edenfield to 33 months' imprisonment for failing to register as a sex offender in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2250.

Booth commented that Kertell's sentence marks the first prosecution and sentencing in the Southern District of Georgia for the enhanced federal crime of failure to register as a sex offender in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2250, which was enacted as a part of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act in July 2006.

At the earlier change-of-plea hearing, the evidence established that Kertell was required to register as a sex offender as a result of a 1995 conviction in Florida for attempted sexual battery. That conviction stemmed from incidents in which Kertell sexually abused his three-year old daughter. Following his release from prison, Kertell was informed of his legal obligation as a sex offender to register his current residence with state officials and to notify state officials of any change in his residence. In 2003, Kertell left his registered address in Seffner, Florida, without informing local officials. For the next several years, Kertell traveled across the United

States as a carnival worker; he never updated his sex offender registration in Florida or registered in any of the other states in which he worked.

In March 2007, Deputy Marshals of the United States Marshal Service apprehended Kertell in Savannah, where he had been working for several months as a day laborer with a local temporary employment agency. Kertell also worked in the Savannah area selling Christmas trees during the 2005 and 2006 holiday seasons. Kertell had never registered as a sex offender with any state or local official in the Savannah area during that time.

Booth commended the efforts of the United States Marshal Service, who investigated and apprehended Kertell, and commended particularly the lead case agent, Deputy United States Marshal Joel B. Paskauskas. The United States was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Brian Tanner.

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