



# Department of Justice

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## **NEW CASTLE RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

### PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that JAMES OWENS, 46, New Castle, Indiana, was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his guilty plea to distributing and possessing child pornography. This case was the result of a investigation by the Hamilton County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville Police Departments) and the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), 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 to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafefchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafefchildhood.gov).

The investigation by the Hamilton County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force focused on a chatroom that involved incest. In 2008, the investigation determined that Owens became interested in meeting a woman with a profile in the chatroom that stated she had two children ages 12 and 8. During Owens' on-line chats with this woman, who was actually a police detective, he sent the detective the videofile charged in the indictment. When law enforcement contacted Owens about this activity in the chatroom on August 29, 2008, they served a search warrant at his residence and uncovered numerous other images and videofiles of child pornography.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed lifetime years supervised release following OWENS's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, OWENS must not have any contact with any minor children and register as a sex offender. OWENS was fined

in the amount of \$2,500. Because of federal good-time provisions, OWENS will actually serve about 25 years before he becomes eligible for release. OWENS was in custody at the time of sentencing.

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