



Department of Justice

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**45-YEAR-OLD SOUTH CAROLINA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTING
TO ENTICE A CHILD OVER THE INTERNET AND TRAVELING ACROSS
STATE LINES TO ENGAGE IN SEX WITH A CHILD**

Atlanta, GA - ROBERT MILLS THOMAS, 45, of Batesburg, South Carolina, pleaded guilty yesterday in United States District Court on charges of using the internet to attempt to entice a child to engage in sexual activity and traveling across state lines to engage in sexual conduct with a child.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "With this guilty plea, another dangerous predator is off the street and off the internet."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: In early January of 2006, THOMAS contacted an undercover agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation through an internet chat room. During the course of several conversations on the phone and over the internet, the defendant expressed his desire to travel to Georgia from South Carolina to engage in sexual activity with an 11-year-old girl. In less than one month, THOMAS traveled to Georgia to engage in unlawful sexual conduct with the child. There was no actual girl. THOMAS was arrested by law enforcement officers just after arriving in Georgia.

Sentencing for THOMAS is scheduled for Aug 28, 2006, at 10:30 a.m. before United States District Judge Thomas W. Thrash.

This case was investigated by the FBI's Safe Child Task Force.

Assistant United States Attorney Francey Hakes is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Yonette Buchanan, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.