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PRESS RELEASE

**New Castle Man Pleads Guilty to
Production and Possession of Child Pornography**

William A. Phillips, age 42, of New Castle, Delaware, pled guilty yesterday to production and possession of child pornography, in violation of federal law. David C. Weiss, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced the guilty plea following a hearing in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware.

Phillips, who will be sentenced by United States District Judge Joseph J. Farnan, Jr. on a date to be determined, faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years and a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison. Phillips also faces a term of supervised release ranging from at least 5 years to life, and he will be required to register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction in which he lives, works, or attends school. Phillips will remain detained pending sentencing.

According to statements made at today's hearing and documents filed in court, Phillips was identified by New Castle County Police detectives conducting an online investigation into individuals who were trading child pornography through a peer-to-peer file sharing application. In September 2007, New Castle County Police searched Phillips New Castle home and seized a computer, numerous CDs and a videotape that they found to contain thousands of images of child pornography.

As the law enforcement officers continued to review the seized material, they recognized that many of the digital photographs contained on the CDs were taken in Phillips' bedroom in his New Castle home. Following further investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New Castle County Police Department identified the child depicted in the pictures as a female under the age of twelve who was under Phillips' supervision at the time that he took the pictures. Some of the recovered pictures show Phillips engaged in sexual acts with the child. The law enforcement officers also identified a second child under the age of twelve who Phillips recorded engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

At today's plea hearing, Phillips admitted that he produced the images of the children referenced above and that he possessed a total of more than 500 videos and 100,000 images of child pornography. Phillips also admitted that some of these images depict children engaged in sadistic and masochistic sexual acts and that he distributed some of the images that he possessed over the Internet.

Following the plea hearing, Acting United States Attorney David C. Weiss stated, "Child sex offenders should know that when they use peer-to-peer software to share child pornography with the Internet community, they are sharing those images with law enforcement agencies too. They should also know that once law enforcement identifies them, we will fully investigate all of their activities with children and will prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law."

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New Castle County Police Department. For further information, please contact Assistant United States Attorney Edmond Falgowski, at 302-573-6277, ext. 122.

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