



United States Attorney's Office
District of Arizona



Phoenix Police Department



Federal Bureau of Investigation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HONOLULU MAN INDICTED FOR SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

Alleged acts took place during flight from Honolulu to Phoenix

PHOENIX - A federal grand jury in Phoenix, Ariz. returned a 2-count indictment against Shawn Michael Cole, 40, of Honolulu, for the charges of Sexual Abuse of a Minor and Abusive Sexual Contact. Cole appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge David K. Duncan this afternoon and was ordered detained pending further court proceedings. Also at today's hearing, Cole pleaded not guilty to both charges and a trial date was set for April 8, 2008 in front of U.S. District Judge Susan R. Bolton.

The indictment alleges that on January 17, 2008, Cole was on board a flight from Honolulu to Phoenix and was seated next to a 13-year-old girl who was not related to him. During the flight he engaged in sexual acts with the girl and was arrested upon his arrival in Phoenix.

A conviction for Abusive Sexual Contact carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Sexual Abuse of a Minor carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Susan R. Bolton will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Phoenix Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Dyanne C. Greer, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-0102-PHX-SRB
RELEASE NUMBER:2008-035(Cole)

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