



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MESA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHILD PORN CHARGES

Tens of thousands of images found in his home

PHOENIX - Donald Claus, 56, of Mesa, Ariz. pleaded guilty today to one charge of receipt of child pornography. Claus was arrested by the FBI in November 2007 and has been in federal custody since his arrest. Sentencing is set for June 23, 2008 in front of U.S. District Judge Mary H. Murguia.

An international investigation, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies in the Netherlands, revealed that Claus allegedly downloaded numerous files with images of child erotica and child pornography from an overseas website. The images depicted young girls engaged in a variety of poses designed to elicit a sexual response. Further investigation led the FBI to Claus' Mesa residence where a search revealed tens of thousands of images he had collected in print starting as far back as 1968 and via the internet since the 1980's.

A conviction for Receipt of Child Pornography carries a minimum penalty of five years up to a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Murguia 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.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution is being handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-1321-PHX-MHM
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