



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ins/>

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INDIANAPOLIS MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that MICHAEL WILDRIDGE, 40, of Indianapolis, was charged by complaint today with allegedly possessing child pornography at his residence on October 3, 2008. He was also charged with distribution of child pornography. The charges are the result of a joint investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Hamilton County Metropolitan Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Brownsburg Police Department, the Indiana State Police, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the High Technology Investigative Unit (HTIU) of the Department of Justice's Criminal Division.

According to an affidavit filed with the federal complaint, the execution of a federal search warrant today at WILDRIDGE's Indianapolis residence revealed that he allegedly possessed thousands of images and movies of child pornography involving actual minors. The agents executing the search warrant used innovative, on-scene triage techniques to quickly review the contents of his computers and related storage media. His collection purportedly included depictions of children as young as infants and numerous children engaged in explicit sexual conduct, as well as the sadistic and masochistic abuse of actual minors. WILDRIDGE also is alleged to have distributed child pornography to a former resident of Miami Beach, Florida, who is now in federal prison.

WILDRIDGE was arrested without incident this morning following the execution of a search warrant at his residence. An initial appearance was held before U.S. Magistrate Judge Kennard P. Foster in Indianapolis at 3:00 p.m. WILDRIDGE was ordered held in custody pending a detention hearing next Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Steven D. DeBrotta and Trial Attorney Bonnie L. Kane, U.S. Department of Justice, who are prosecuting the case for the government,

distribution of child pornography may be punished by a term of imprisonment of not less than five (5) nor more than twenty (20) years, a maximum possible fine of \$250,000 and a term of supervised release for any term up to the life of the offender. Knowing possession of child pornography may be punished by a term of imprisonment of up to ten (10) years, a maximum possible fine of \$250,000, and a term of supervised release for up to the life of the offender.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit
<http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov>.

The complaint is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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