



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, October 23, 2008
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NEW CASTLE RESIDENT CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that JAMES OWENS, 46, New Castle, Indiana, was charged yesterday with distributing and possessing child pornography, following an investigation by the Hamilton County Metro Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The information alleges that OWENS distributed a computer file containing child pornography on August 28, 2008, and then possessed that same computer file, along with numerous others, on August 29, 2008. The names of the files OWENS possessed were sexually explicit and consistent with images of children engaged in sexual conduct.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who is prosecuting the case for the government, OWENS faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 30 years for the two counts and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000 on each count. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis, Indiana.

This case emerged out of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov>.

The information 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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