



# Department of Justice

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## **ACWORTH MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Atlanta, GA - Joshua Aaron Hardman, 24, of Acworth, Georgia pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child pornography today before U.S. District Court Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr.

According to United States Attorney David E. Nahmias and information presented in court, HARDMAN began communicating on the Internet in late 2004 with a person he thought was an 11 year-old girl. In reality, the person was a Canadian police officer operating in an undercover capacity. HARDMAN engaged in sexually explicit e-mail communications with her and sent her two e-mails containing images of child pornography. On January 19, 2005, Acworth police officers executed a search warrant at HARDMAN's residence and recovered a computer containing hundreds of images of child pornography along with a box containing girl's panties.

"The internet has greatly proliferated child pornography and has provided a forum for child exploiters to meet," said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. We are committed to combating this horrifying trend, and perpetrators, such as Mr. Hardman, will be prosecuted, convicted, and sent to prison."

Under the terms of the binding plea agreement accepted by Judge Hunt today, HARDMAN will be incarcerated for 10 years. United States Attorney Nahmias explained that an important aspect of the plea agreement is that, in addition to a lengthy prison term, HARDMAN will be placed on supervised release for the rest of his life, allowing law enforcement to monitor his activities and providing the potential for re-incarceration should HARDMAN ever violate the law again.

Sentencing for HARDMAN is scheduled for April 19, 2006 at 10 a.m.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Acworth, Georgia Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Aaron M. Danzig is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or F. Gentry Shelnett, Chief, Criminal Division, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>.