



Department of Justice

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SENTENCING FOR MAN WHO TRAVELED TO INDIANA TO MOLEST CHILD

ATLANTA, GA -- JOHN C. PENROD, 36, of Melville, New York, was sentenced today to 5 years, 5 months in prison for traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act with a person under 18 years of age. PENROD, a former army officer, met a 14 year-old female in an online chat forum while he lived in Lithonia, Georgia. For over a year, and while married at the time, PENROD cultivated a relationship with the child with gifts and professions of love and affection. In June 2004 PENROD traveled from Lithonia to her home in Indiana and successfully enticed his young victim to repeatedly engage in sexual relations with him.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "This case illustrates that the most dangerous place for many children is not on the street outside their house but on the computer inside it. What starts as a casual on-line chat can quickly turn into something dangerous, because on-line child predators like Penrod are, sadly too common. We urge parents and others who discover suspicious on-line activity to alert law enforcement immediately, so that we can prosecute them."

PENROD was indicted on April 19, 2005, pleaded guilty to the charge on September 27, 2005. United States District Court Judge William S. Duffey, Jr., sentenced PENROD to 5 years and 5 months in custody, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. PENROD was also ordered to pay a fine of \$10,000.

This case was investigated by Special Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Robert C.I. McBurney prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact United States Attorney Nahmias or Yonette Sam-Buchanan, Chief, Terrorism, Violent and Organized Crime Unit, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>.