



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias  
Northern District of Georgia

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

## MAN SENTENCED FOR HAVING SEX WITH 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL

### *Crime Committed While Defendant Was on Probation for Prior Statutory Rape Conviction*

Rome, GA - CARL MITCHELL HOOPER, 29, of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Robert L. Vining, Jr., to serve over 15 years in federal prison on a charge of transporting a minor across state lines with the intent to engage in sexual activity.

“This defendant repeatedly exploited young girls to satisfy his sexual desires,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “Today’s harsh sentence is appropriate punishment and will protect the public from his crimes. This case also warns other adults with such perverse inclinations that they face prosecution and long sentences if they choose to act on their desires.”

HOOPER was sentenced to 15 years, 10 months in prison to be followed by 30 years of supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system. HOOPER pleaded guilty to the charge on August 30, 2007.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: Through his brother, who lived in a trailer park in Walker County, Georgia, HOOPER met a 13-year-old girl who lived in the same park. Shortly after she turned 14, he developed a sexual relationship with her. At the time, HOOPER was on probation for statutory rape but had failed to register as a sex offender. On June 15, 2006, the day after HOOPER learned that an arrest warrant had been taken out based on his failure to register, he took the 14-year-old victim to a motel in Tennessee. The next day, HOOPER took his victim to Jacksonville, Florida. The Jacksonville Police found them sleeping on the beach at night and asked HOOPER for identification. HOOPER showed his Tennessee driver’s license, and a check revealed that HOOPER was wanted for abducting the victim. HOOPER told the police that he knew that the victim was 14 years old, and he added that he believed that having sex with her was “okay” because she was pregnant with his child. HOOPER has been in custody since his arrest in Jacksonville.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Paul R. Jones prosecuted the case.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Attorney General launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices around the country, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, 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 [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).