



U.S. Department of Justice
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PRESS RELEASE

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**RIO RANCHO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSE**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court, **Richard D. Crisman**, 27, of Rio Rancho, N.M., entered a guilty plea to receiving a visual depiction of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

At sentencing, Crisman faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison and a maximum of 20 years of imprisonment and a maximum lifetime term of supervised release. He also will be required to register as a sex offender after he completes his prison sentence. Crisman has been in federal custody since his arrest on September 7, 2011, and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be set.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Crisman was one of eight defendants charged as part of Operation Predator. Crisman was indicted on August 23, 2011, and charged with three counts of receipt of a visual depiction of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and three counts of possession of a matter containing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. According to the indictment, Crisman committed the receipt offenses in November 2009 and the possession offenses in September 2010. During this morning's hearing, Crisman entered a guilty plea to Count 2. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Counts 1, 3 and 4 through 6 will be dismissed after Crisman is sentenced.

According to court records, Crisman was arrested as a result of an undercover

investigation by the New Mexico State Police revealing that Crisman received and possessed child pornography images through a peer-to-peer filing sharing program in November 2009, February 2010, April 2010, June 2010 and July 2010. As a result of the investigation, in September 2010, the New Mexico Crimes Against Children Task Force (New Mexico ICAC Task Force) executed a search warrant at Crisman's residence and seized computers and computer-related media which contained evidence of child pornography. While the search warrant was being executed, Crisman voluntarily participated in a recorded interview during which he admitted using his computers to view child pornography.

In his plea agreement, Crisman acknowledged that a forensic examination of his computers and computer-related media uncovered more than 14,000 images and 40 videos of child pornography. Crisman also acknowledged that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children determined that the child pornography images and videos found on his computers and computer-related media included 1884 child pornography images of more than 100 children who have been identified as child pornography victims and have been rescued, and nine child pornography videos of five children who have been identified as child pornography victims and have been rescued.

Operation Predator was an investigative effort by federal, state and local law enforcement affiliates of the ICAC Task Force aimed at identifying individuals throughout New Mexico involved in the distribution, receipt, and possession of child pornography through peer-to-peer file sharing programs. Twenty-two search warrants were executed and eight defendants were arrested in September 2010 as a result of Operation Predator. All eight defendants have been convicted of child pornography offenses and are serving prison sentences.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charlyn E. Rees, and was investigated by the New Mexico State Police, Homeland Security Investigations and other agencies that participate in the New Mexico ICAC Task Force. The law enforcement agencies that participated in Operation Predator include: Albuquerque Police Department, Farmington Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, Las Cruces Police Department, New Mexico Attorney General's Office, New Mexico State Police, Rio Rancho Police Department, Santa Fe Police Department, the United States Marshal's Office in Las Cruces, the First Judicial District Attorney's Office, the Fifth Judicial District Attorney's Office, and the Eighth Judicial District Attorney's Office.

The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and DOJ's Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, 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 to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov.

The case also was brought as part of the New Mexico ICAC Task Force's mission, which is to locate, track, and capture Internet child sexual predators and Internet child pornographers in New Mexico. There are 61 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies associated with the

ICAC Task Force, which is funded by a grant administered by the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. Anyone with information relating to suspected child predators and suspected child abuse is encouraged to contact federal or local law enforcement.

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