ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL LISA MADIGAN



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MADIGAN'S OFFICE, WINFIELD POLICE ARREST ALLEGED CHILD PREDATOR

Chicago – Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force assisted the Winfield Police Department this morning in apprehending a Schaumburg man who allegedly traveled to Winfield to have sex with a minor.

The Winfield Police Department today arrested William F. Murphy, 32, of Schaumburg, when he attempted to meet with a child at a park in Winfield with the intent of having sex with that child. Murphy met the child online in a chat room.

Murphy was charged with one count of Indecent Solicitation of a Child, a class 3 felony, punishable by a maximum of five years in the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC).

Following the arrest, the Winfield police and the Illinois ICAC task force executed a search warrant at Murphy's residence, where a computer was seized. A forensic search of the computer will be conducted.

"My Internet Crimes Against Children task force successfully teamed up with the Winfield Police Department to track and apprehend a child predator who used the Internet to find his next victim," Madigan said. "Because technology presents criminals with new opportunities, it's important that law enforcement and parents stay one step ahead."

"The Winfield Police Department's continued collaborative efforts with the Illinois Crimes Against Children task force are working to protect the children of Winfield, as well as children across the state, by apprehending dangerous sexual predators" said Winfield Police Chief Jim Kruger.

The Office of DuPage County State's Attorney Joe Birkett is prosecuting the case.

"We will continue to vigilantly investigate and prosecute child sex offenders, especially those who believe that the Internet provides them a layer of secrecy and anonymity," Birkett said.

In the 20 months since its creation, the Illinois ICAC task force has arrested more than 250 individuals on charges related to the exploitation of children.

The task force also has conducted educational trainings reaching more than 8,000 students with its Internet safety message, and created a Web site at www.illinoisicac.org to provide the public with a central source for information on child exploitation.

To report online child exploitation, please send an e-mail to <u>illinoisicactip@atg.state.il.us</u> or call the CyberTipline at 1- 800-843-5678.

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