



For Immediate Release
April 27, 2007

Contact: Robyn Ziegler
312-814-3118
877-844-5461 (TTY)
rziegler@atg.state.il.us

**MADIGAN: HARDIN COUNTY MAN SENTENCED AFTER GUILTY
PLEA ON MOLESTATION CHARGES**

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced that a Hardin County man will serve seven years in the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) after pleading guilty to sexual molestation charges.

The Illinois State Police arrested William Tolbert, 66, in 2006 based on incidents that occurred between June and November 2005 involving two young female children who are related to Tolbert. Tolbert also pleaded guilty to molestation charges based on conduct that took place in the 1990s involving a third female who also is related to Tolbert.

Madigan's office and the Franklin County State's Attorney's office filed charges against Tolbert in May 2006.

The court sentenced Tolbert April 17 to seven years on each of seven Class 2 felony counts to be served concurrently in the IDOC. Tolbert was previously convicted of criminal sexual abuse, a Class A misdemeanor, in 1999 for an offense against another young female relative.

"Prosecuting sexual predators—especially pedophiles—is a major focus of my office's efforts to protect women and children," Madigan said.

According to Madigan, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) began an investigation after family members reported allegations of sexual misconduct after Tolbert and his wife began caring for the younger children following the out-of-state arrest of their mother in 2005.

Senior Assistant Attorney General Neal Goodfriend of Madigan's Special Prosecutions Bureau and Vincenzo Chimera of the Criminal Prosecutions/Trials Assistance Bureau prosecuted the case.

- 30 -

[Return to April 2007 Press Releases](#)