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ONLINE PREDATOR ARRESTED FOLLOWING UNDERCOVER WORK BY WHEATON POLICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Chicago - Collaborative undercover work by the Wheaton Police Department and Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force resulted in the arrest of a Wonder Lake man Tuesday afternoon after he arrived in Wheaton for a meeting with a child he met through the Internet.

Clarence Jackson, 39, was arrested following the undercover Internet sting operation conducted by Wheaton Police detectives and the Attorney General's ICAC. Jackson initially met the child in an online chat room and then set up a face-to-face meeting. After he traveled to meet the child, he was taken into custody. The "child" was in fact an undercover Wheaton Police detective.

Jackson was scheduled to appear in DuPage County Circuit Court Wednesday for a bond hearing on felony charges of Indecent Solicitation of a Child and Attempted Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse. The DuPage County State's Attorney's office is prosecuting the case.

The public is reminded that these charges are merely accusations. The defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Madigan's ICAC Task Force is one of 46 Task Force agencies in the U.S. that assist local and state law enforcement agencies. They work to enhance the investigative response to offenders who use the Internet, online systems and other computer technology in an attempt to exploit children. Madigan urges the public to report online child exploitation by sending an e-mail to <u>illinoisicactip@atg.state.il.us</u> or by calling the CyberTipline at 1-800-843-5678.

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