



September 18, 2008

CARRIER MILLS RESIDENT INDICTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

A. Courtney Cox, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 17, 2008, KRISTOPHER DENEIL McNEW, age 45, of Carrier Mills, Illinois, was named in a two count Indictment returned by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Count 1 of the indictment charges McNEW with Receipt of Child Pornography and carries a potential penalty of from 5-20 years imprisonment, a fine of up to a \$250,000, and from 5 years to lifetime supervised release to follow his incarceration. Count 2 of the indictment charges knowing Possession of Child Pornography, and carries a potential penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of up to a \$250,000, and from 5 years to lifetime supervised release to follow his incarceration.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

McNEW was arrested on September 3, 2008, following the execution of a search warrant at his residence by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Cyber Crimes Task Force. McNEW was initially charged in a complaint filed by the United States Attorney and was ordered detained without bond. He has been in the custody of the United States Marshal since that date.

McNEW was arraigned on the indictment on September 18, 2008, in United States District Court in Benton. A jury trial date of November 24, 2008, at the United States District Courthouse in Benton was set. He was again ordered held without bond and was remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal pending trial.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Southern Illinois Cyber Crimes Task Force, the Illinois Attorney General's Office Crimes Against Children Task Force, and a number of state and local law enforcement agencies. "My office's High Tech Crimes Bureau obtained information that led us to conduct this investigation. We eventually worked with the Southern Illinois Cybercrimes Task Force to obtain a search warrant and arrest Mr. McNew," said Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. "Protecting children from predators is an essential part of our Internet crimes work. We are pleased to have worked closely with the U.S. Attorney's Office in this child protection case."

According to United States Attorney Cox, "Protection of our children is one of the most important jobs law enforcement can perform for our communities and remains a priority of this Office. I am extremely gratified to see the cooperative effort of federal, state, and local authorities which resulted in this arrest and prosecution."

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), in which the United States Attorney's Office, in conjunction with federal and state law enforcement authorities, is actively investigating and prosecuting individuals who produce, distribute, or possess child pornography. United States Attorney Cox will be attending the National PCS Conference next week to meet with Department of Justice officials and other representatives from around the country to formulate plans for enhancing this important initiative. As a further indication of the importance of the PSC initiative, the United States Attorney's Office is joining with Verizon, GLOTELL Distribution, and John A. Logan College Conference Center to sponsor the Southern Illinois Cyber Crime Awareness Conference on October 15, 2008, which is designed for parents, educators, health care service providers, and law enforcement officers. Anyone interested in obtaining more information or registering for the conference should visit www.jalc.edu/cbi or call (618) 985-2828, ext. 8510.

Anyone with information concerning the use of the Internet for the purposes of possessing, producing, or trafficking in child pornography is encouraged to contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation or their local police department.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.

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