



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David Capp Northern District of Indiana

5400 Federal Plaza, Suite 1500
Hammond, Indiana 46320

Hammond

South Bend

Fort Wayne

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2012

www.usdoj.gov/usao/inn/

CONTACT: Mary Hatton

PHONE: (219) 937-5603

FAX (219) 852-2770

LAFAYETTE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE

Hammond, Indiana- The United States Attorney's Office announced the following:

Anthony Thompson, 20, of Lafayette, Indiana, pled guilty before Hammond District Court Judge Joseph S. Van Bokkelen to the felony offense of possession of child pornography.

The investigation into Thompson's conduct began in October, 2010, when the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office received a CyberTip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The CyberTip indicated that on September 18, 2010 at 11:34 hrs EDT, an e-mail was sent from an AOL e-mail AOL account to a Yahoo! e-mail account and attached to the message were 36 images of suspected child pornography. A warrant to search the contents of the e-mail account was obtained and law enforcement thereafter found numerous e-mails sent and received by the user of the account with child pornography images attached to messages that included offers to trade and requests for additional images. Law enforcement thereafter obtained and executed a warrant to search the residence to which the AOL e-mail account was registered and determined that the account belonged to Thompson. Thompson was interviewed by law enforcement and confessed to distributing, receiving and possessing child pornography.

This case resulted from an investigation by members of the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, including Homeland Security Investigations, the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office, and the Lafayette Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jill Koster.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), 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 specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.