



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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Leesburg Man Indicted on Child Pornography and Weapons Charges

(Alexandria, VA) -- A federal grand jury returned a three-count indictment today charging Ralph D. "Donnie" Davis, age 44, of Leesburg, Virginia, with receipt and possession of child pornography, and possession of firearms and ammunition by a convicted felon. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and William Reid, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, made the announcement.

According to the indictment, between May 2003 and March 2006, Davis knowingly received multiple computer files containing photo and video depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Davis was also found to possess multiple computer images of child pornography during an October 16, 2006, search of his residence. According to the indictment and previously filed court documents, many of the children depicted in the images are under 12 years of age. In addition, law enforcement recovered three semi-automatic handguns at Davis' residence, which he was prohibited from possessing due to prior felony convictions.

Davis has been detained since June 5, 2007. If convicted, Davis faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years, to a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison on the receipt of child pornography charge. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison on the possession of child pornography charge, and a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison on the firearms possession charge.

In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, 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 identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov>.

This investigation was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, with assistance from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gerald Smagala and Special Assistant United States Attorney Edward J. McAndrew, who is on detail from the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department of Justice.

Criminal indictments are only charges and are not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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