



Department of Justice

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CHILD PREDATOR SENTENCED TO 45 YEARS

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA— Clarence Byron Carter, 42, of Eufaula, Alabama, was sentenced to serve 45 years in federal prison and lifetime supervised release upon his release from prison, Leura G. Canary, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, announced today. Carter pleaded guilty to a three-count felony Information filed against him on September 11, 2007, charging him with production of child pornography, distribution of child pornography, and possession of child pornography. United States District Judge Myron H. Thompson made findings that the following factors were accurately calculated under the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines: that Carter was in a position of trust when he abused at least two children under the age of twelve years; that Carter touched the children's genital areas; that he produced images of child pornography and distributed it through a computer shared folder that Carter created; that Carter possessed over 600 images of child pornography and other material which portrayed sadistic and masochistic conduct; and that Carter's conduct established a pattern of sexual activity involving prohibited sexual conduct. Under the advisory sentencing guidelines, Carter was subject to a sentence of life imprisonment. The United States Code, however, prohibited a sentence above the combined statutory maximum of 45 years. Accordingly, the Court imposed the statutory maximum.

Leura G. Canary, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, stated, "This office prosecutes many kinds of federal crimes, but I am most moved by these which involve abuse and

the exploitation of children. There are few acts more egregious than harming a child. My office will continue to vigorously prosecute every offender against children we can, and we will seek the longest sentences we can justify. This day was a good day for our children.”

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tommie Brown Hardwick stated, “For many years we have taught our children to be aware of strangers. In recent years, we are finding that the child predator is not always a stranger, but someone the child has come to trust and even love. Therefore, an open line of communication with children is essential in keeping them safe.”

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In May 2006, the Department of Justice launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by 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 to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tommie Brown Hardwick.