



Department of Justice

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LOCAL MAN PLEADS GUILTY SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA – Chad Brandon Smith, 27, of Wetumpka, Alabama, pled guilty in federal court before United States Magistrate Judge Wallace Capel, Jr., to a one-count indictment which charged Smith with sexual abuse of a minor. Leura G. Canary, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, announced today.

Smith admitted that he knowingly had sexual contact with a child who was at least twelve years of age, but had not attained the age of sixteen. This case falls under federal jurisdiction because the offense occurred on federal property. The law requires that in order to convict Smith under Title 18, United States Code, Section 2243, Smith must be at least 4 years older than the child on the date of the sexual act. In this case, Smith was approximately 10 years older than the child. Smith has a prior conviction for engaging in similar conduct.

Smith faces a sentence of not more than 15 years in federal prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. A sentencing date has not been scheduled.

U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary stated, “We are the voices of our children. As we continue our efforts to shield children, we will prosecute every child predator who crosses our path.”

“Young men should consider themselves on notice that consent is not a defense, since a child under the age of sixteen years cannot consent to sexual contact under the laws of the state

of Alabama,” said Assistant United States Attorney Tommie Brown Hardwick.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tommie Brown Hardwick.