



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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## **OKLAHOMA MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHARGE OF INTERSTATE TRAVEL TO HAVE SEX WITH MINORS**

Tampa, FL - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton, along with Robert W. Weber, Special Agent in Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Sheriff Jim Coats, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, today announced that a federal grand jury in Tampa has returned an indictment charging James Edward Sanders (age 58, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) with traveling from Oklahoma to Pinellas County, Florida for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct with two minors. If convicted, Sanders faces a maximum term of life in federal prison.

Sanders, a former Cleveland County Deputy in Oklahoma, allegedly used his computer to make arrangements to meet and engage in sexual activity with, an 11-year-old girl and 14-year-old girl in Pinellas County. In fact, Sanders was communicating on line with a law enforcement officer.

This case was investigated by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda C. Kaiser.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of

child sexual exploitation and abuse. 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.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of federal criminal law, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.